



1251 2ND AVENUE SOUTH – ROOM 102, OKANOGAN, WA 98840
PHONE: (509) 422-0855 EXT. 5 • FAX: (509) 422-0532 • WEB: WWW.OKANOGANCD.ORG

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: December 12, 2013 Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogan Conservation District office, Okanogan, WA
FROM: Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Kirsten Cook, Conservation Educator
Albert Roberts, Auditor	Leslie Michel, Conservation Planner
Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair	Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor
Lorah Super, Member	Dale Swedberg, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Steve Colvin, Member	Randy Kelley, Interested public
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Will Keller, NRCS
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	

Meeting Call to Order: Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 4:03PM.

Agenda: Ivan Oberg asked for changes to the agenda. Staff asked to add a Bonaparte Grant amendment to contracts approval, a letter to the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) regarding practice conditions, and Albert Roberts asked to have a discussion about WSCC Policy 13-24 in new business. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Albert Roberts moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #727, which covers the checking account activity for November 8, 2013 to December 12, 2013, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment:

Payroll direct withdrawals on 11-19-13 totaling \$7,741.97, payroll direct withdrawals on 12-3-13 totaling \$7,742.00, voucher (check) numbers; 9868 - 9885 totaling \$32,961.50, direct withdrawals on 11-18-13 totaling \$12.61, on 11-19-13 totaling \$3,184.64, on 11-20-13 totaling \$164.56, on 11-20-13 totaling \$412.00, on 11-21-13 totaling \$2,749.92, on 11-30-13 totaling \$6.81, on 12-2-13 totaling \$45.38, on 12-2-13 totaling \$12.61, on 12-3-13 totaling \$164.56, on 12-3-13 totaling \$999.34, on 12-3-13 totaling \$3,211.81, on 12-3-13 totaling \$229.39, on 12-4-

13 totaling \$412.00, on 12-5-13 totaling \$2,749.86, on 12-6-13 totaling \$82.36, on 12-10-13 totaling \$37.73, on 12-10-13 totaling \$13.12, on 12-10-13 totaling \$96.07 and transfers of \$10,825.00 to the savings account. The deposits totaled \$191,077.28 and expenditures totaled \$73,855.24. Lorah Super moved to approve Treasurer's Report #727 as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry reported that it has been cold the last 10 days. Other than that he has been busy with ranching and other activities.

Lorah Super – Lorah said that her computer crashed about three weeks ago and has had difficulties connecting with the internet since she got her new computer. She reported that she has now gained first-hand experience with composting livestock. She also reported that the Forest Health Collaborative met while she was at the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Annual Meeting so she asked Albert Roberts to attend for the District. She added that they will meet again next Wednesday. Lorah reported on her experiences at the WACD annual meeting and mentioned she is working on her evaluation of the meeting. She was surprised to receive the Young Tiger Award at the WACD awards luncheon and thanked everyone for nominating her.

Albert Roberts – Albert stated his fuel consumption has gone up considerably, due to cold temperatures and he used 70 gallons of diesel to keep things thawed. He attended the Forest Health Collaborative meeting for the District. He thinks they have some good ideas, but it will take some time to develop them into real projects and make on the ground changes.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan reported that we are getting very low on grass monitoring pocket books that he and other ranchers have used for a long time to record utilization. He suggested that District staff look into funding for a new batch of the records to distribute to local ranchers.

Steve Colvin – Steve reported that he enjoyed the WACD Annual Meeting and felt it was a great learning exercise.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

Randy Kelley handed out a written report from his trip to the WACD Annual Meeting. Randy went through some highlights of what he heard and messages he came away with. He noted that one take home message from the WACD Annual Meeting was 93% of farms in the State of Washington are considered small farms.

District Manager and Staff Reports:

Craig Nelson reported on his meeting in Spokane for composting. The meeting was informative and several agency folks at the meeting left with 'assignments'. Craig will stay connected with the group to track where the District could help get something going. There remains some permitting obstacles from the Department of Ecology for composting that the group will have to address before going forward at any sizeable scale.

Craig recently spoke with Christina Bauman from the Tonasket Forest Service and learned that the National Riparian Restoration Team will be putting on a three day grazing and riparian management workshop during the second or third week of May. They are looking for sponsors to assist with the training. The Board thought this was a great idea and directed Craig to offer our assistance.

Ellen Heilhecker, with the Washington State Fish and Wildlife is new to the agency and deals with ranchers and the impact that wolves have. She is looking for ranchers to interview, regarding livestock composting, for a video as part of the Western Wildlife outreach. It is a collaborative effort with Washington State University Extension Agency and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to provide an educational video to assist ranchers with limiting the predation on their herds.

Craig said that the 12th District legislation meeting he attended was a positive session. The Legislature continues to be very supportive of conservation districts and the work they do. He did add that there was not support for Firewise in the Conservation Commissions supplemental budget request. Although the legislators support the program the Firewise program is proposed to be funded from the Capital Budget and it is unlikely there will be a supplemental Capital Budget.

Craig attended a meeting for the North Central Washington Resource Conservation and Development council (RC&D), which although is not gone, seems to be in hibernation. The council will meet again next month.

Craig relayed the information he gathered on vehicles for sale, one in particular, being a 2007 Prius that Town Toyota in Wenatchee had on the lot. He also reported on property that he has been investigating for possible office space.

Kirsten Cook reported that she wanted to thank Luke Cerise and Leslie Michel for their help with the Ecology of the Okanogan Soils classes. She also thanked Sarah Troutman-Zahn, NRCS for allowing Luke to participate.

Leslie Michel reported that things are finally moving with Ecology for the Bonaparte Creek grant project and the work should begin soon.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Will Keller presented on behalf of Sarah Troutman-Zahn, who is in Spokane at a state leadership meeting. He reported that January 17, 2013 is the last day to sign up for the coming round of contracts for Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (Methow Valley only), and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. The sooner folks get in, the better, as producers need to ensure they have all of their records up to date (especially records at FSA). He reported that getting archeology reviews of projects have been significantly behind this year due to various reasons.

He announced that Kerry Wilson is the new District Conservationist for the Colville Reservation. He worked for the Colville Tribes for a few years before working for NRCS in Oregon for the past couple of years.

Contracts & Conservation Plans

Thurston Conservation District Inter-Local Agreement – This agreement will allow the district to be reimbursed for Terri William’s time, while she assists with the Technical Employee Training Group. Lorah Super moved to approve the inter-local agreement with Thurston Conservation District. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Cascadia Conservation District Archeological Services Inter-Local Agreement – This agreement would allow the Okanogan Conservation District to access the assistance of Cascadia’s archeologist to perform cultural resources on projects. Albert Roberts moved to approve the Cascadia Conservation District Archeological Services inter-local agreement, Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Bonaparte Grant Agreement Extension – Albert Roberts moved to approve the time extension and budget amendment of the Bonaparte grant. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed with one abstention from Jerry Asmussen.

Agency Reports:

Dale Swedberg – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife – Dale reported that they are planning six weekends of events on various topics from June 7, 2014 through September 27, 2014. They will be hosting a conference in June. They will be working to get the Sinlahekin Heritage Center Foundation formed to get funding and support for their group.

Dale reported that as the WDFW representative of the agency for land management in the area he is recording five minute presentations for KOMW each Friday. He is looking for ideas of subjects that he could cover.

Old Business

Vehicle Purchase – Craig Nelson presented information on vehicles that he and the staff came up with. Albert Roberts moved to authorize the purchase of the 2007 Prius from Town Toyota in Wenatchee for \$12,000 or the best price that Craig can negotiate. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2014 District Budget Approval – Kim presented the 2014 District budget. After discussion, Lorah Super moved to approve the budget as presented. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

December Monthly Plan – There were no changes made to the monthly plan.

Other – There was no other old business.

New Business

Microsoft Office 365 Subscription – Craig Nelson presented information on the subscription and explained why it was needed. Steve Colvin made a motion to purchase the Microsoft Office 365 subscription. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2013 – 06, Setting Board Meeting Dates and Times – After discussion, it was decided to hold all board meetings, with the exception of the December meeting, on the first Thursday of each month. The December meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month. Meetings in the months of April through October will begin at 6:00 PM and meetings for January, February, March, November and December will begin at 5:00 PM, except as may be temporarily amended by the board of Supervisors. Lorah Super made a motion to accept Resolution 2013 – 06, Setting Board Meeting Dates and Times. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Annual support for AgForestry Leadership Program – Craig Nelson spoke about the benefits of the program and reported that the organization was seeking support from conservation districts. Steve Colvin made a motion to give \$500.00 in support for the AgForestry Leadership Program. Albert seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Temporary Office Space Options – Craig Nelson informed the board that there was a need to have advanced approval to move to a temporary office space during times like the federal shutdown in October. He reported that Kim Simpson had graciously opened up her home during this time, but because the district did not have advanced approval they would be unable to reimburse her for the office space and expenses she incurred during that time. The board directed Craig to work on new policies that would cover situations such as this.

Direct Seed & Oil Seed Cropping Systems Conference – There will be a Conference on January 20 – 22, 2013 in Kennewick, Washington that would be beneficial for Leslie Michel to attend. Albert Roberts made a motion for Leslie Michel to attend the 2014 Direct Seed and Oilseed Cropping Systems Conference. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Lorah added that she is 100% in favor of staff enrichment.

WSCC Practice conditions – Craig Nelson explained the issues regarding National Oceanic Atmospheric Association's buffer requirements. Lorah Super made a motion to work, with Craig Nelson, on drafting a letter, addressing the buffer requirement issues and to sign on behalf of the board.

WSCC Policy 13-24 – A discussion was held concerning the Commission's newly adopted policy regarding their partnering with conservation districts and agricultural property owners to purchase Agricultural Conservation Easements. This policy provides guidance for conservation districts interested in partnering with the Conservation Commission on agricultural conservation easements funded through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation category.

Other – Randy Kelley presented Albert Roberts with his WACD ten year pin and certificate, and also the WACD 2013 Presidents award for his dedication.

Executive Session – The Board went into Executive Session at 7:20 PM for 90 minutes to discuss employee evaluations. The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:50 PM. Jerry Asmussen moved to increase the salaries of Bob Clark, Leslie Michel, Craig Nelson, Kim Simpson and Terri Williams by the equivalent of \$1.00 per hour and Kirsten Cook by \$2.00 per hour. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Other – There was no other new business.
Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 8:52 PM.

Summary of Motions

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve Treasurer's Report #727 as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the inter-local agreement with Thurston Conservation District. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the Cascadia Conservation District Archeological Services inter-local agreement, Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the time extension of the Bonaparte grant. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed with one abstention from Jerry Asmussen.

Albert Roberts moved to authorize Craig to purchase the 2007 Prius that Craig presented that for sale at Town Toyota in Wenatchee for \$12,000 or the best he can negotiate. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the budget as presented. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin made a motion to purchase the Microsoft Office 365 subscription. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super made a motion to accept Resolution 2013 – 06, Setting Board Meeting Dates and Times. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin made a motion to give \$500.00 in support for the AgForestry Leadership Program. Albert seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts made a motion for Leslie Michel to attend the 2014 Direct Seed and Oilseed Cropping Systems Conference. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super made a motion to work with Craig Nelson drafting a letter addressing the buffer requirement issues and to sign on behalf of the board.

Ivan Oberg, Chair Date

Kim Simpson, District Treasurer Date