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**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** February 7, 2013 Board of Supervisors Meeting  
**LOCATION:** USDA Service Center, Okanogan, WA  
**FROM:** Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

**PRESENT:**

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Kirsten Cook, Conservation Educator
Albert Roberts, District Auditor	Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor
Lorah Super, Member	Luke Cerise, NRCS
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Will Keller, NRCS
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	Bill Eller, WA State Conservation Commission
Bob Clark, Technical Coordinator	Curtis Beus, WSU Extension
Terri Williams, Conservation Planner	Randy Kelley, Public

**Regular Meeting Call to Order:** Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

**Agenda:** The agenda was presented. Craig Nelson asked to add North Central Washington Memorandum of Understanding to the “Review, approve and sign contracts and conservation plans section”, add a review discussion of RCW 89.08 to “Old Business,” and remove vehicle purchase from “New Business.” Albert Roberts moved to approve the agenda as modified. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ivan Oberg asked for comments on the **January 3, 2013 minutes**. Lorah Super asked that her name be removed from the minutes because she was not present at the meeting. Albert Roberts moved to approve the minutes as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #716**, which covers the checking account activity for January 4, 2013 to February 7, 2013, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment:

Payroll direct withdrawals; on 1-17-13 totaling \$8,072.31, Payroll direct withdrawals; on 2-4-13 totaling \$8,089.32, Voucher (check) numbers; 9698 - 9705 totaling \$6,185.70, Direct withdrawals on 1-4-13 totaling \$160.00, on 1-8-13 totaling \$2,787.16, on 1-15-13 totaling \$2,627.47, on 1-17-13 totaling \$12.60, on 1-18-13 totaling \$164.56, on 1-22-13 totaling \$160.00, on 1-22-13 totaling \$2,787.20, on 1-25-13 totaling \$600.79, on 1-28-13 totaling \$283.00, on

1/31/13 totaling \$124.77, on 1-31-13 totaling \$595.35 on 1-31-13 totaling \$866.72, on 1-31-13 totaling \$132.67, and on 1-31-13 totaling \$22.76 and on 2-1-13 totaling \$12.60 and on 2-5-13 totaling \$160.00 and on 2-5-13 totaling \$164.56 and on 2-7-13 totaling \$2,770.18 and on 1-9-13 a transfer of \$186.00 to the savings account. The deposits totaled \$27,944.17 and expenditures totaled \$36,779.72. Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #717 as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Supervisor Reports:**

**Lorah Super** – Reported that she submitted her application for Appointed Supervisor position. Lorah reported that the weather warm-up is causing lots of mud making work to train horses a challenge along with vehicle and day care problems. She also reported she is becoming an expert in diesel generators.

**Albert Roberts** – Stated that he traveled to Olympia last week and met with Senator John Smith who replaced Sen. Bob Morton from the 7<sup>th</sup> District. Senator Smith is very supportive of conservation districts and is an active farmer and participates as a vendor at the Colville Farmer's Market. Albert reported that Representative Brad Hawkins from the 12<sup>th</sup> District was not available but he did meet with his legislative aide and found him to be very personable. Albert met with the Democrats Ag and Rural caucus to discuss issues. He stated that that group's next meeting is April 26 and 27 in Chelan. Albert will be trying to set up a tour at Gebber's Farms for the group.

**Ivan Oberg** – Reported that Andy Perleberg, WSU Extension Forester, contacted Ivan about hosting a tour of his forested rangeland as part of an all-day program on June 22. Andy is working with Curtis Beus on this Forest Owners Field Day that will have presentations on multiple topics. Curtis reported that they are interested in targeting landowners who own and operate livestock operations and manage forested land as well.

**District Manager and Staff Reports:**

Craig Nelson reported the Washington State Conservation Commission will hold meetings with Conservation Districts on February 20, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and February 21, 2013 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. These meetings will include more discussion on the Three Directors meetings and also a panel discussion. The Commission would like to see at least one Supervisor and one employee to attend and is offering a \$500.00 stipend to help cover travel costs to each district. Craig stated that he plans to attend the first day at a minimum and possibly the second day, though he does have another meeting on his schedule. Ivan Oberg said he would like to go, but may not be able to so he asked Craig to reserve a seat for him as a likely attendee.

Craig met with Chris Johnson of the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation to discuss the possibility of projects for the Conservation Project Data System. Craig informed the board that Chris is interested in sources of state funds as match for his projects. He is also concerned that there is no monitoring of the positive benefits projects have made, especially in the Methow area. Chris felt it would be beneficial if there were funds for the district to monitor and perform evaluations of these benefits, since it could affect the availability of future grants funds.

Craig informed the board that Leslie Michel would benefit attending the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists training in Portland, Oregon. Albert Roberts moved to approve Leslie's attendance at a soils training in Portland. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super asked about findings of Woody Bio Mass being resurrected. Craig explained that he was asked to present the findings of the 2007 Wood Biomass Feasibility study to the Washington State Senate Energy, Environment, and Telecommunications committee on February 14. They are interested in hearing about our study because the committee has heard from several other groups concerning this type of work but none have had studies like ours. Craig will be traveling to Olympia to present the findings and express how the process is not economically feasible right now due to the low cost of hydropower and high costs of transportation. Craig also indicated that there are other factors that make a potential system more economical such as use of the char produced or the benefits to the natural resources. Lorah, asked to review the presentation to give her thoughts and ideas as she was involved in the development of the feasibility study. Craig said he would send it to her in the next couple of days.

Kirsten Cook reported on the 5-star grant application she has submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Federation that if funded will pay for the District to work with the Okanogan High School science class to conduct monitoring and educational activities in the Salmon Creek and Sinlahekin watersheds. Kirsten updated the Board on her work with Nancy Warner of IRIS to conduct the NCW Success Summit in Okanogan. That event is coming up in November. Kirsten asked the board for input on the District hosting an event in the future that would draw the public in to inform the public of District activities and receive input from the public on their needs, wants, and desires for natural resource conservation. Kirsten informed the board that the Home and Garden show will be held April 18, 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Terri Williams gave an update on Troy Accord's project that the District approved cost-share for in 2012. Mr. Accord has been having difficulty finding additional funding for the extensive project that he is proposing to implement. He is now proposing to split the project into two phases. Terri explained the changes that he is proposing to implement in the current phase which will still allow him to move his livestock from next to Beaver Creek to a larger pasture. Lorah Super moved to approve the amended contract with Troy Accord, Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Bob Clark reported that he would like to attend the Washington State Prescribed Fire Conference in Ellensburg in March, 2012. Lorah Super moved to approve Bob's attendance and travel expenses for this conference. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Bob Clark also reported on another training opportunity on Pacific salmonid habitat organized by the Colville Confederated Tribes. The training will be held May 1 – 2, 2013 and he explained that he is trying to get a discount on the current registration price of \$595.

Kim Simpson stated that it is time to schedule the District's internal audit. Albert stated that he could do it and scheduled it with Kim for next Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM.

### **Contracts & Conservation Plans**

Craig Nelson and Terri Williams presented the Okanogan County Cooperative Weed Management Area Memorandum of Understanding to the Board. This is a renewal of an agreement currently in place. The group of agencies cooperating under this agreement wanted to clarify some language and update the list of cooperative agencies. Albert Roberts moved to authorize Ivan to sign the agreement. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Craig Nelson presented the North Central Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council Memorandum of Understanding to the Board. This agreement is a renewal of an agreement that expired December 31, 2012. This agreement should be post approved to begin January 1, 2013 and will remain in effect for the 2013 calendar year. Albert Roberts moved to authorize Ivan to sign the agreement. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Services:**

Luke Cerise, NRCS Range Conservationist, came on behalf of Amy Hendershot, Acting District Conservationist. He presented information to the Board, regarding information that was passed on to him regarding office rental space agreement.

Luke reported that Doug Allen at the Ephrata, NRCS has a 'soft hiring freeze' in place so they are not going to select a new District Conservationist to replace Randy Kelley, who retired at the end of 2012. Therefore, Amy Hendershot will continue to serve as the Acting District Conservationist in the interim.

Luke reported that Okanogan County was approved for four forestry contracts, one rangeland contract, and tentatively, one stock water contract. There will be a couple of projects in the Methow under the Agriculture Water Enhancement Program (AWEP). The general Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) fund was cut drastically this year. However, the high tunnel initiative was funded high enough that they have opened up a second application window.

Will passed around the most recent snow survey report. The first report shows much higher than average snow water content at mid and high elevations and low elevations sites are slightly higher than average.

Luke Cerise reported that NRCS will be hosting their annual Local Work Group meeting on February 19 at 6:00 PM in Chelan, WA, at the Senior Center. They are strongly encouraging producers to attend and help set priorities for NRCS programs.

**Agency Reports:**

Curtis Beus from the Washington State University Extension, reported that he would like to continue working with Ivan on selecting a site for the forest field day. Once the site is selected, Curtis will work with Craig Nelson to coordinate District support of the program.

Curtis reported that he is looking for ways to improve marketing the Extension program. He has entered into an agreement with Big R in Omak to put a 40 inch television in their store that displays Extension programs on a looped presentation with informational material on a table below the display. He would like to be able to open that presentation up to other groups such as the conservation district to have their programs advertised with his. He is also looking for other locations to put the same type of monitors.

Curtis is coordinating a HOW (Horse Owners Workshop) coming up in June. Curtis would like to work with Kirsten on promoting the workshop.

Bill Eller, Washington State Conservation Commission, reported that he has sent out the latest version of the Good Governance Checklist, which he said is a risk management tool. He reported that the Conservation Commission would like the checklist filled out for each District before the May 2013 Commission meeting. Bill will fill out the form, but suggested it would be good for the district to review it also.

**Public Comments**

There was no public in attendance to provide comment.

**Old Business**

**Resolution 2013-01 Limited Authorization to Sign Cooperator Agreements for the Fish Screening Program** – Craig Nelson presented this resolution that is the result of a discussion at the January 2013 Board meeting. This resolution, if approved, will allow the District Chair to sign Fish Screen Program cooperator agreements and District staff shall maintain a list of such approved agreements and report signed agreements to the Board. Lorah Super moved to approve the resolution. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Long Range Plan** – Craig Nelson presented the text that District staff have developed and propose to use for the District Five Year Long Range Plan. Staff members explained that while the process took some time, the outcome was extremely helpful and fostered a greater sense of camaraderie and team building. Craig will put the information the Board reviewed tonight into the format required by the Conservation Commission and send to the Board for review at the March Board meeting. Board members will send their comments to Craig by February 22, 2013.

**Task List** – No task list was mailed so the Board skipped this item.

**Review RCW 89.08** – The Board received copies of RCW 89.08 at the last board meeting to review and there were comments made regarding the document.

**Other** – There was no other Old Business

**New Business**

**Legislative Days** – Legislative day is Thursday, March 28 2013, in Olympia. Albert has already scheduled an appointment with Representative Brad Hawkins. He is working to get the other meetings scheduled as well. Albert will be attending Legislative Days and Craig expressed an interest in attending as well.

**Office Space-NRCS Agreement** – There was no new direction or action to take since the item was discussed as part of the NRCS report. The Board reiterated that we should continue to check out options with the district's best interest.

**Ecology Water Quality Complaints Process** – Craig explained the issues that we have had in the past, dealing with Ecology and the water quality complaint process and the fact that we no longer have an agreement with Ecology to work on complaints. He informed the board that Ecology recently received two water quality complaints and has asked the district for their assistance dealing with these. Ecology feels that they do not have the background needed to give the cooperators the best process to meet the water quality requirements. The board directed Craig to open up negotiations with Ecology and come up with an agreement.

**Other** – There was no other New Business.

**Executive Session** – The Board went into Executive Session at 6:45 PM for 20 minutes to discuss an employee evaluation. At 7:05 PM the Board returned from Executive Session.

Lorah Super moved to change Leslie Michel's employment status as regular and increase her salary an equivalent of \$.50 per hour effective February 1, 2013. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 7:10 PM.

**Summary of Motions**

Albert Roberts moved to approve the agenda as modified. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the minutes as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #717 as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Leslie attend a soils training in Portland, Oregon. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the amended contract with Troy Accord, Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve Bob's attendance and travel expenses for Washington State Prescribed Fire Conference. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

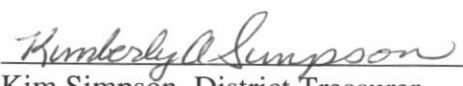
**Summary of Motions – continued**

Albert Roberts moved to authorize Ivan to sign the Okanogan County Cooperative Weed Management Area Memorandum of Understanding. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to authorize Ivan to sign North Central Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council Memorandum of Understanding. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve Resolution 2013-01 Limited Authorization to Sign Cooperator Agreements for the Fish Screening Program. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

  
Ivan Oberg, Chair      3/7/13  
Date

  
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer      3/7/13  
Date