



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: February 5, 2015 Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogan Conservation District office, Okanogan, WA
FROM: Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Terri Williams, Conservation Planner
Jerry Asmussen Vice-Chair	Leslie Michel, Conservation Planner
Albert Roberts, Supervisor	Nancy Nash-Mendez, Spec. Proj. Coord.
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Dale Swedberg, WDFW
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	Will Keller, NRCS
Bob Clark, Technical Program Coord.	Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor
Kirsten Cook, Conservation Educator	Jared Toogood, Public

Meeting Call to Order: Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Agenda: No changes were made to the agenda.

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

Treasurer's Report #741, which covers the checking account activity for January 7, 2015 to February 5, 2015, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment: Payroll direct withdrawals on 1-19-15 totaling \$8,849.45, payroll direct withdrawals on 2-4-15 totaling \$9,568.92, voucher (check) numbers; 10139 - 10150 totaling \$21,306.65, direct withdrawals on 1-7-15 totaling \$755.00, on 1-7-15 totaling \$164.56, on 1-8-15 totaling \$3,306.20, on 1-14-15 totaling \$3,823.20, on 1-16-15 totaling \$200.00, on 1-21-15 totaling \$593.13, on 1-21-15 totaling \$210.00, on 1-21-15 totaling \$675.81, on 1-21-15 totaling \$164.56, on 1-21-15 totaling \$825.00, on 1-22-15 totaling \$3,226.08, on 1-23-15 totaling \$1,125.54, on 1-31-15 totaling \$1,822.34, on 1-30-15 totaling \$1,353.66, on 1-30-15 totaling \$15.15, on 1-31-15 totaling \$105.76, on 2-3-15 totaling \$252.93, on 2-5-15 totaling \$164.56, on 2-5-15 totaling \$825.00, on 2-5-15 totaling \$3,495.94 and transfers to savings of \$32,002.00. The deposits totaled \$149,122.22, and expenditures totaled \$94,831.44. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve Treasurer's Report #741 as presented. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry's one word report was MUD.

Albert Roberts – Albert reported that he also has a lot of mud and water issues. He also noted that the Okanogan County Community Action's, Food for All Project, is having their annual Soup Bowl Dinner this coming Saturday at the Okanogan Grange. Albert informed that Slow Food Okanogan will hold a Pie Workshop at the Okanogan Grange on Monday, February 9, 2015. He also reported that the Okanogan Irrigation District is adding copper sulfate to some ditches, which causes issues for organic growers. As a result, the Irrigation District will be having a meeting on February 12, 2015 at Fillaree Farms with a representative from the Washington Department of Agriculture.

Albert reported that on February 23, 2015 the Shorelines Master Program will be heard by the Planning Commission followed by a special meeting on March 9, 2015. He added that he has already arranged meetings with State legislators for the Washington Association of Conservation District Legislative days.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan reported that he was able to attend the Ag Expo in Spokane this week. He spent some time talking with a company that is producing biochar. The product is produced from wheat/straw and is added to the soil with air seeders.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

No associate reports given.

District Manager and Staff Reports:

Craig Nelson reported on his trip to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual meeting in New Orleans. He said it was a busy event, but was able to take time to speak with Leonard Jordan, Natural Resources Conservation Service Associate Chief for Conservation, regarding the Emergency Watershed Protection and the problems the District experienced getting things on the ground. Craig reported that his presentations went well and that part of his time there, was spent working in a Firewise booth with Carolyn Kelly and other Washington State District staff.

Craig informed that the Supplemental Budget request made it out of the house and the 1.2 million for the Carlton Fire Assistance is still on the line. He added that cultural resources would be required on any fencing projects, so now the question on whether or not we will be able to deliver.

Craig reported that the District has a heavy work load, working with Carlton Complex Fire landowners, setting up files and entries in to the Conservation Practice Data System (CPDS). District staff met and developed plans and it was determined that there was a need for additional employees. He also informed, that if the additional \$3,000,000 is approved, we will need to add additional conservation planner staff.

Craig conveyed that he asked Bob Clark to research phone systems, since we would no longer be able to share the phone line with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Bob was able to find an excellent, reasonably priced system with a company called Intrigue.

Kirsten showed the board the draft awards for the 75th Anniversary Conservation Celebration. She also reported on progress of Ecology of the Okanogan activities, including a site visit with Rich Beausoleil, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and his Karelian Bear Dogs. Kirsten reported that the plant sale is up to 69 orders, totaling just over \$10,000.

Kim Simpson reported that the Washington State Conservation Commission is asking that Board members review the Good Governance checklist, which she share with the Board Supervisors. She also reported that all paperwork related to our District Supervisor election has been submitted and we are clear to move forward.

Contracts & Conservation Plans – Nothing to report, review, or approve.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Will Keller was present to report on behalf of Sarah Troutman-Zahn. He handed out Sarah's written report and highlighted a few of the following points. Applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) FY16 are due July 30, 2015. The deadline for re-enrollment of the 2011 contracts for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is March 26, 2015. He also noted that the National Programmatic agreement for cultural resources has been re-written, which voids the State Level Agreement (SLA) for cultural resources. All practices will need to be consulted on, including prescribed grazing and mulch till until a new SLA is developed. Will also handed out the latest snow survey report. According to the report, Okanogan County does not look as grim as one would expect and better than most parts of the state.

Agency Reports:

Dale Swedberg, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) – Dale said he will be conducting interviews next Monday for the Methow Wildlife Area Assistant Manager position. The Okanogan Land Trust (OLT) received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to work on easements in the Tunk Valley. Dale informed that the ex-director for the OLT, Garry Schalla has moved on and that Thom Woodruff comes to the position with years of experience, adding that he is very knowledgeable and easy going.

Public Report:

There was no public present.

Old Business

January/February Monthly Plan – Kim Simpson noted that the 75th anniversary dinner was coming up on February 25, 2015. She also reminded the group that Legislative Days would be next month in Olympia on March 24-25th.

New Business

New Logo – Kirsten Cook presented the newly designed District logo. Albert Roberts moved to approve the new District logo as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Plan – Craig Nelson asked for permission to hire three new technical positions given the increased workload, a Technical Support Specialist, Wildlife Conservation Planner, and a Water Quality Planner. Albert Roberts moved to approve the plan to hire three new technical positions, Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Phone System – Bob Clark reported that after intense research he found a reasonably priced phone system through Intrigue that would meet the needs of the District. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the phone contract with Intrigue Communications for \$1,430.50 and monthly charges of approximately \$154.50. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Internal Audit – The annual internal audit was set for February 19 at 10:00 AM and will be performed by Albert Roberts, Craig Nelson and Kim Simpson.

Other – No other new business.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 6:20 PM.

Summary of Motions

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

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve Treasurer’s Report #741 as presented. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

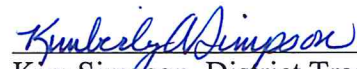
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Ivan Oberg, Chair

Date



Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

3/2/15

Date