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## DRAFT

**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** April 3, 2014 Board of Supervisors Meeting  
**LOCATION:** Okanogan Conservation District office, Okanogan, WA  
**FROM:** Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

### **PRESENT:**

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Teri Williams, Conservation Planner
Jerry Asmussen, Member	Leslie Michel, Conservation Planner
Albert Roberts, Auditor	Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor
Steve Colvin, Member	Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Sarah Troutman-Zahn, NRCS
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	Dale Swedberg, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Kirsten Cook, Conservation Educator	Bill Eller, WA State Conservation Commission
Bob Clark, Technical Coordinator	

**Meeting Call to Order:** Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Agenda:** Ivan Oberg asked for changes to the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** Steve Colvin moved to approve the March 2014 minutes as written. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #731**, which covers the checking account activity for March 7, 2014 to April 3, 2014, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment: Payroll direct withdrawals on 3-19-14 totaling \$7,957.18, payroll direct withdrawals on 4-3-14 totaling \$7,957.18, voucher (check) numbers; 9937 - 9963 totaling \$15,752.98, direct withdrawals on 3-13-14 totaling \$3,356.34, on 3-18-14 totaling \$12.61, on 3-20-14 totaling \$164.56, on 3-20-14 totaling \$600.00, on 3-25-14 totaling \$2,932.46, on 3-25-14 totaling \$34.93, on 3-25-14 totaling \$34.85, on 3-25-14 totaling 250.00, on 3-25-14 totaling \$157.79, on 3-25-14 totaling \$318.05, on 3-31-14 totaling \$6.88, on 4-2-14 totaling \$12.61, and transfers to savings of \$1,800.00. The deposits totaled \$21,232.16, and expenditures totaled \$41,348.42. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve Treasurer's Report #731 as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Supervisor Reports:**

**Albert Roberts** – Albert reported that a Farmer’s Market meeting will be held on April 15, 2014, at 6:15 PM in the PUD meeting room. On April 9, 2014 there will be a Grange membership event, with a Chili and Cornbread Cook-off beginning at 6:00 PM at the Okanogan Grange. He also stated that there is not very much moisture in the soils right now.

**Steve Colvin** – Steve reported things were looking good, that they were probably two weeks ahead of last year for planting and pruning.

**Jerry Asmussen** – Jerry reported that he has made it not quite 60 days into calving and would like to be done. He stated that Eastern Okanogan County is going to be extremely dry this summer. Jerry has been busy attending late night meetings.

**Ivan Oberg** – Ivan did not have anything to report.

**Associate Supervisor Reports:**

**Randy Kelley** – Randy reported a possible recruitment opportunity from Mr. Fred Vosper who is currently the only Technical Service Provider in Washington State for energy audits. Randy continues to talk with him about the possibility of helping him collect information to conduct the audits. He stated that there are close to 50 audit applications and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will fund all applications.

**District Manager and Staff Reports:**

Craig Nelson reported that he is assisting with a Supervisor Training Program, which will include sessions on open public meetings, what the legislature requires, who conservation districts are and their partnerships. These training sessions should help improve the overall effectiveness of district boards and is somewhat modeled after the Ag Forestry Program.

Craig is also working on obtaining wildlife funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with the support of Jay Kehne, Conservation Northwest. Jay attended a meeting with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and was asked if the Okanogan Conservation District would be interested in a project for improving wildlife habitat and Jay told the foundation that the District could probably use \$20,000 for a project. The District will need to have an idea for the project by mid-April. Craig suggested to Jay that perhaps instead of just throwing money into small pots, we need to put our boots on the ground and go out and talk with people. We need to prioritize where the money could best be used, by funding a Planner and Educator for outreach in the amount of \$40,000 to \$60,000. Craig and Jay are continuing to put together the final details for such a proposal.

Craig stated that the Local Work Group meeting will be held April 8, 2014 in Chelan. There will also be a Washington State Conservation Commission two day meeting in Ellensburg, April 23-24, 2014 to discuss budgets and allocation of funds.

Leslie Michel reported all of the plots in the REACH grant have been planted.

Terri Williams thanked the Board for letting her go to Portland to attend the stream restoration training this past month. She said it may be the best training she has attended since she started working here. Terri also reported that we received the Aquatic Weed Management grant from the Department of Ecology to perform surveys along the Okanogan River. The weed board also received a grant, so they can conduct a lot of inventory for the overall plan. She also stated that she continues to work with the District Technical Employees work group that is developing a plan to have a full time employee to coordinate district employee training. The group is looking for supervisor input into their plan at this point, so she invited the supervisors to review the plan and asked that they contact her if they are interested. Terri also reported that there will be a potluck at the Tunk Valley Grange on April 19 beginning at 6:00 PM, where she will present a proposal to members to address the erosion occurring on the Grange land, at 7:00 PM.

Kirsten Cook reported that the Icicle Fund has requested a full proposal for the Ecology of the Okanogan project, which is due in May. The plant sale is ready to go Saturday. Okanogan High School kids and local Boy Scouts turned out in good numbers on Tuesday and Wednesday to help get the job of sorting plants done.

#### **Contracts & Conservation Plans**

New Colville Confederated Tribes Fish Screen Contract – Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the new Colville Confederated Tribes Fish Screen contract as presented and authorize Ivan to sign the contract. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Agreement – Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the Cooperative Weed Management Area agreement as presented and authorize Ivan to sign the agreement. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** She continues to await Craig’s review of the Cooperative Working Agreement. She reported on Local Work Group and Farm Bill Material. Basically, the new rules are still being developed so most people don’t know what is going on. Sarah also reported that NRCS had a vehicle vandalized and they continue to work with the building owner on the issue of providing fencing and lighting for security, which will not happen until after the new lease is signed. Sarah conveyed that Luke Cerise has taken a job with the US Forest Service at the Tonasket Ranger District and will be leaving this month.

#### **Agency Reports:**

**Dale Swedberg** – Dale thanked the Board for the recognition at our Conservation Celebration. He reported that the burn team is in the region to do some burning on the Sinlahekin. He finally received some names to interview for the Methow Area Wildlife Manager as Tom McCoy is leaving effective April 30, 2014. The Sinlahekin Wildlife Area 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration kicks off on June 7, 2014. Additional events, with a variety of topics, are planned through September with the finale on September 26, 2014, which is also National Fishing and Hunting Day.

**Bill Eller** – Bill repeated that the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) is hosting the biennial budget meeting in Ellensburg in April. He stated that they are also going to try to address the resolutions passed by Washington Association of Conservation District this past year. The task of developing a budget that will be funded will be difficult because of an anticipated \$1-2 Billion budget deficit next year. He stated that it is important to translate what we do, into something the Legislature will understand and fund. Bill also asked Supervisors to review the elections report, provide comments, and rank the options. Bill reported that the WSCC has had quite a turnover in staff and they are working to cover all of the work during the transition. He also reminded the District of the upcoming WSCC board meeting and tour that we will be hosting in July.

### **Old Business**

**Office Space** – Craig Nelson asked the Board of Supervisors to give him an idea of what they had in mind for office space and what vision they have for the District in the next five to ten years. He reported on options that were available and after considerable discussion the board gave him some direction. The board wishes the office to be as conspicuous as possible, a little bit of property to demonstrate conservation practices is good but not necessary, and should be able to offer the opportunity to expand to include partners in the future. The board does not wish to have a very large property that will distract from the District's overall mission.

**April & May Monthly Plan** – The plan items were reviewed and it was suggested to add the Local Work group meeting and the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Other** – There was no other old business.

### **New Business**

**Technical Training Group progress update** – This was already discussed during staff reports and was just an update from staff.

**Other** – Craig reported that we need to have a District representative attend a Forest Health Collaborative meeting in Portland. Lorah Super is unable to make it, and it was suggested that Albert Roberts take her spot. Steve Colvin made a motion to send Albert Roberts on a trip to the Forest Health Collaborative meeting in Portland and authorize the purchase of airfare and travel expenses. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 8:12 PM.

### **Summary of Motions**

Steve Colvin moved to approve the March 2014 minutes as written. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve Treasurer's Report #731 as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the new Colville Confederated Tribes Fish Screen contract as presented and authorize Ivan to sign the contract. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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Ivan Oberg, Chair

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Date

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Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

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Date