



1251 2ND AVENUE SOUTH – ROOM 102, OKANOGAN, WA 98840
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TO: The Record
SUBJECT: February 6, 2014 Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogan Conservation District office, Okanogan, WA
FROM: Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Terri Williams, Conservation Planner
Albert Roberts, Auditor	Leslie Michel, Conservation Planner
Steve Colvin, Member	Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor
Lorah Super, Member	Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Dale Swedberg, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	Sarah Troutman-Zahn, NRCS
Bob Clark, Technical Coordinator	Will Keller, NRCS
Kirsten Cook, Conservation Educator	Jacquelyn Wallace, Okanogan Land Trust

Meeting Call to Order: Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

Agenda: Ivan Oberg asked for changes to the agenda. Staff asked to add Cascadia Conservation District, Statement of Work and Washington State Department of Agriculture Crop Mapping to the “Review, Approve, and Sign Contracts and Conservation Plans”, and Office Space to “Old Business”, and Board Mailing contents to “New Business”. Albert Roberts moved to approve the agenda as amended, Lorah Super seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Steve Colvin moved to approve the January 2014 minutes as written. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #729, which covers the checking account activity for January 4, 2014 to February 6, 2014, inclusive was presented for the Board’s approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment: Payroll direct withdrawals on 1-17-14 totaling \$8,007.16, payroll direct withdrawals on 2-3-14 totaling \$8,007.18, voucher (check) numbers; 9906 - 9916 totaling \$33,895.45, direct withdrawals on 1-4-14 totaling \$0.51, on 1-4-14 totaling \$164.56, on 1-6-14 totaling \$412.00, on 1-7-14 totaling \$2,727.58, on 1-13-14 totaling \$3,184.64, on 1-15-14 totaling \$16.94, on 1-16-14 totaling \$12.61 on 1-17-14 totaling \$3.35, on 1-17-14 totaling \$600.00, on 1-17-14 totaling \$164.56, on 1-17-14 totaling \$21.34, on 1-19-14

totaling 17.25 on 1-21-1 totaling \$2,882.50, on 1-2-14 totaling \$57.90, on 1-24-1 totaling \$15.86, on 1-24-14 totaling \$188.95, on 1-24-14 totaling \$566.00, on 1-24-14 totaling \$464.34, on 1-26-14 totaling 3.32, on 1-30-14 totaling \$1,004.36, on 1-30-14 totaling \$672.14, on 1-30-14 totaling \$115.56, on 2-3-14 totaling \$583.28, on 2-3-14 totaling 12.61, on 2-4-1 totaling 600.00, on – 2-4-14 totaling \$164.56, on 2-4-14, totaling \$200.00, on 2-6-14 totaling \$2,882.46 and transfers to savings of \$6,978.00. The deposits totaled \$20,689.62, a transfer of \$15,000 from the savings account, and expenditures totaled \$59,626.97. Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #729 as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Lorah Super – Lorah reported that she usually doesn't like to watch football, but really enjoyed the Super Bowl this year. She received an e-mail from Dave Vogel at Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) saying that the Chair of the WACD Natural Resource Policy Committee has had to resign and wanted to know if she would like to renew her two year commitment to the committee and be willing to Chair the committee. She renewed her membership, but she is only willing to Chair the committee if it is absolutely necessary.

She spent nearly seven hours at a Projects Committee meeting for the Forest Health Collaborative. The Forest Service gave a fascinating presentation on how they are using their Dry Forest Strategy to develop projects. They have a couple projects coming in Okanogan County in the next couple of years.

Steve Colvin – Steve reported that he had a meeting with some landowners near Chesaw about a road issue that they are having. He has been working to try to get them in contact with Craig, but so far they have not had success getting a connection. Steve will continue to work on this.

Albert Roberts – He said it is good to be back from his trip to Mexico and Cuba. He and Carey Hunter took their second granddaughter to Mexico and they enjoyed her culture shock. They also went to Cuba for ten days. They will present a slide show at the Okanogan Grange on February 22, 2014 at 5:00 PM. The Community Action, Slow Food Okanogan, and Okanogan High School Art Department are working on a Soup Bowl program, February 8, 2014 at 5:30 PM, to raise funds for Community Action.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan had no report.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

Randy Kelley – Reported that he is still working on his draft energy audit program to get certified as a Technical Service Provider with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). Larry Johnson, NRCS Washington Engineer, is cleared to review these plans and to certify Randy and others as competent to develop the plans. Reportedly there are about 109 applications for energy in Washington State, nine of which are here in Okanogan County, 33 in Douglas County, and one in Chelan County.

He attended the Ag Expo in Spokane this week. He reported that he picked up a lot of freebies and enjoyed seeing the new equipment. There was a lot of technology being offered to farmers.

District Manager and Staff Reports:

Craig Nelson reported that he has been meeting with Jay Kehne from Conservation Northwest about beginning an agricultural animal composting program. Jay has some funding available to fund staff time to identify landowners willing to participate in the program and cost-share funds for landowners willing to get a facility started and operating. Craig is seeking input from the Board about how in-depth they would like to be in this program. The board directed Craig to take an active role in the project and Craig will work with Jay to draft an agreement. Ivan said that he would like to see a Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) incorporated with this.

Craig stated that the District's Annual Plan still needs some work. He plans to create a functional plan that will work better for the district and then give a report for the commission using their template. Craig also reported that there will be a riparian grazing course on May 20 - 22, 2014, put on by the National Riparian Grazing Team with local support from Christina Bowman from the Forest Service and Celeste Accord from NRCS. The course will teach how to set up grazing management plans and monitor the affects, to improve the riparian condition.

Leslie Michel reported that we have been awarded a REACH grant for close to \$15,000. This grant will work on cover crops in dry lands.

Bob Clark continues to work on fish screens.

Terri Williams has been attending the Coordinated Weed Management meetings. Staff will be drafting a letter of support for a grant that the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board plans to submit, to conduct aquatic weed surveys of the Columbia and Okanogan Rivers. They have also requested a support letter for changing the management requirements for Hoary Alyssum. Requirements currently allow landowners to choose whether or not to treat this invasive plant. This request will likely be brought up next month at the Board meeting when more information is available.

Kirsten Cook handed out a report of our 2013 Education and Outreach Accomplishments. She reported a total of 4,366 participants were reached during tabling events, school and youth programs, presentations/workshops and Firewise risk assessments. This was an increase of 260 participants compared to the 2012 totals.

Contracts & Conservation Plans

WSCC Livestock Addendum – Terri presented the need to approve this addendum that will fund her time to work with livestock producers. Albert Roberts moved to approve the Livestock addendum. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Spokane Conservation District Inter-Local Agreement – This agreement will allow landowners to get low interest loans through the Spokane Conservation District to purchase

equipment for direct seed. Lorah Super moved to approve the Spokane Conservation District Inter-Local agreement. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Cascadia Conservation District Statement of Work – This statement of work will allow the district to use the cultural resource services provided by Cascadia staff under the already in-place Inter-Local Agreement between all of the NCW conservation districts. Steve Colvin moved to approve the Cascadia Conservation District Statement of Work. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Washington State Department of Agriculture Crop Mapping Agreement – This agreement will allow district staff to do crop mapping for the WSDA and receive up to \$6,000 for services performed. Albert Roberts moved to approve the crop mapping agreement. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Sarah Troutman-Zahn reported that she continues to work with conservation districts in North Central Washington to get cooperative agreements approved by the July 2014 deadline.

The Farm Bill has been approved by Congress and is scheduled to be signed by the President tomorrow. The Conservation Title of the Farm Bill has been reduced from 23 programs to 13 programs. The Farm Service Agency will no longer make direct payments, but they have increased crop insurance programs, which are tied to conservation compliance. The Conservation Reserve Program acreages were reduced from 32 million to 24 million acres nationwide by the end of this new Farm Bill. NRCS staff is checking to make sure applicants are members on www.sam.gov to before approving contracts or payments.

NRCS is sponsoring a soil health workshop in Waterville on February 18, 2014. Participants need to RSVP to Kay Fisher at the Foster Creek Conservation District. NRCS has advertised job listings for the Waterville Resource Conservationist and Central Area Conservationist.

Agency Reports:

Dale Swedberg – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife – Dale reported that he had a meeting today with the Wildlife Area staff he supervises. During that meeting they discussed ways they could better coordinate activities amongst themselves and cooperating agencies. Dale continues his interview sessions with KOMW radio station on Fridays from 12:30 PM to 12:45 PM.

Dale reported that they are working on the 75th celebration of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area. Invitations were sent to Secretary Jewell from the Department of the Interior, Governor Inslee, and other dignitaries.

Jacklyn Wallace – Jacklyn Wallace, the conservation coordinator for the Okanogan Land Trust, introduced herself. She stated that she will be coming to meetings in the future, since she is

interested in strengthening relationships. She said that they are working on a couple of new easements.

Old Business

Good Governance Checklist – The Board reviewed the checklist that was sent out in the Board mailing and did not have any questions or comments. Kim Simpson informed the board that she reviewed the checklist with Craig Nelson and Bob Clark and did not find any problems with the districts performance.

Conservation Celebration Update – District staff gave an update of preparation for the Conservation Celebration, on February 19, 2014 at the Okanogan Grange from 5:00 – 8:00 PM.

February Monthly Plan – The plan was reviewed and the Board liked the new format.

Office Space Update – Craig Nelson reported on the progress of looking for a new location for the District office. He listed the criteria that the District would require and asked for direction on how the board would like to proceed. He was told to look at purchase and lease options and see what was available, that the District could afford.

Other – There was no other old business.

New Business

Authorization to Negotiate and Award Contract for Similkameen River Mile 3.8 Project – Terri Williams will need to review, with staff support, the Request for Qualifications she received, sometime after next Friday. Ivan Oberg said he was interested in participating in the process. Albert Roberts moved to give authorization to the committee to select and negotiate a contract. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

July Conservation Commission tour and Interactive Dinner – Craig Nelson reported on what he, the staff, and Albert discussed for the tour and dinner schedule. The meeting location is already set for the Okanogan County Commissioner's Hearing Room for July 16th and 17th. On the afternoon of July 16, 2014, the proposed plan is to pick up the group in a bus and tour conservation projects, a fish screen, the Townsend soil health demonstration project, and a site in the Chiliwist for Firewise.

After the tour we will host an interaction dinner at Pine Stump Farms, where Slow Food Okanogan members will serve locally grown and produced food. The members will also have an opportunity to talk about their specific operations and how they incorporate conservation principles in their farms. The following day, the Conservation Commission will meet at the Okanogan County Commissioner's for their regular meeting.

Set Date and Time for Schedule 22/Internal Audit – Kim Simpson said she checked with Bill Eller and he said he would be available either February 26th or 27th to conduct the audit. Albert chose 10:00 AM on February 26, 2014. Kim will let Bill know so he can make plans for travel.

Okanogan Weed Board Letter of Support – This needs more information, which staff will work to get from the Weed Board for the next meeting.

Board Mailing Contents and Distribution – The Board discussed who should be receiving draft minutes and who should be getting approved minutes only. The general consensus was to send draft minutes to supervisors, staff, and others who are regular attendees and that participate in the dialogue and discussions of the meeting.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Summary of Motions

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

Steve Colvin moved to approve the January 2014 minutes as written. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer’s Report #729 as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the Livestock addendum. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

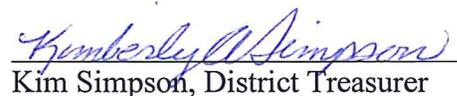
Lorah Super moved to approve the Spokane Conservation District Inter-Local agreement. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve the Cascadia Conservation District Statement of Work. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the crop mapping agreement. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to give authorization to the committee to select and negotiate a contract for the Similkameen River Mile 3.8 Project. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.


Ivan Oberg, Chair 3/8/14
Date


Kim Simpson, District Treasurer 3/6/14
Date