



# Okanogon Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogon, WA 98840

---

**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** January 5, 2016 Board of Supervisors Meeting  
**LOCATION:** Okanogon Conservation District office, Okanogon, WA  
**FROM:** Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

**PRESENT:**

Ivan Oberg, District Chair	Terri Williams, Conservation Planner
Albert Roberts, District Auditor	Leslie Michel, Soil Scientist
Steve Colvin, Supervisor	Zach Day, Natural Resource Technician
Lorah Super, Supervisor	Mindy Widell, Natural Resource Technician
Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor	Allisa Carlson, Conservation Planner
Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor	Kristie Bickford, Conservation Educator
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Sarah Troutman-Zahn, NRCS
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	Mike Baden, WSCC
Bob Clark, Technical Program Coordinator	Sam Israel, Guest

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

**Agenda:** District staff asked to add Staff Training to New Business. Steve Colvin moved to approve the agenda as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Steve Colvin moved to approve the January 2016 minutes as written. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #752,** which covers the checking account activity from December 9, 2015 to January 5, 2016, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment: Payroll direct withdrawals on 12-17-15 totaling \$12,878.01, on 1-5-16 totaling \$12,842.58, voucher (check) numbers; 10388 - 10403 totaling \$35,283.78, direct withdrawals on 12-14-15 totaling \$6,373.12 on 12-18-15 totaling \$1,375.00 on 12-18-15 totaling \$166.06, on 12-22-15 totaling \$4,753.70, on 12-30-15 totaling \$666.06, on 12-30-15 totaling \$301.68, on 12-30-15 totaling \$545.33, on 12-30-15 totaling \$463.66, on 12-30-15 totaling \$450.00, on 12-30-15 totaling \$533.19, on 12-30-15 totaling \$293.58, on 12-30-15 totaling \$57.55, on 12-31-15 totaling \$76.26, transfers to savings of \$1,645.00 and transfers from savings of \$100,000.00. The deposits totaled \$114,439.75, expenditures totaled \$78,704.56. Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #752 as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Supervisor Reports:**

**Steve Colvin** – Steve reported that folks living along and near Tonasket Creek are concerned about runoff and particularly storm runoff from burned areas. He reported that the Thornton property bank stabilization project has taken some hits from floods, but appears to be doing okay.

**Albert Roberts** – Albert stated two nights ago his property got 14 inches of snow overnight. He reported that the temperature got up to 38 degrees, which makes cutting trees more difficult.

**Lorah Super** – Lorah reported that her step-daughter lives at the bottom of a ravine near Riverside and has already experienced some water in their basement from rain events. She also reported that her high tunnel is holding snow, which is causing some problems. Lorah informed that she and Craig will attend the Wildfire Recovery meeting by video conference, instead of traveling to California.

**Ivan Oberg** – Ivan reported that he and Gerri haven't even been home yet from a recent vacation. They visited with about four different conservation districts and had a good time visiting with family over Christmas.

**Associate Supervisor Reports:**

Randy Kelley had no report.

**District Manager and Staff Reports:**

Craig Nelson reported that Governor Inslee included 8.8 million for wildfire assistance in his budget request to the Washington Legislature. Craig informed that he plans to attend the Omak-Okanogan Long Term Recovery meeting this month. He went on to give an update on the Emergency Livestock Feed Program. The agencies involved are still working on a public release for the program, but as of yesterday \$295,000 has already been committed. They are still waiting for a quote from Joel Kretz. Craig stated that he is gearing up for conference calls on the Emergency Watershed Protection Plan.

Bob Clark informed the board that there will be three different sessions on water rights training throughout Okanogan County later this month.

Amy Martin reported on a site visit she had on Tonasket Creek with Chris Branch and assisted him with a Fire Mitigation Assistance Grant (FMAG) application to FEMA.

Terri Williams reported that she has been assisting with meetings on Benson Creek and working with Dale Swedberg. A meeting is planned mid-January to discuss aspects of having wells drilled as a backup to the irrigation system. They also plan to repair one lake and perform riparian restoration and piping. Terri informed that district staff submitted two other FMAG grant applications. One for over \$400,000 for soil erosion work and another for culvert repairs.

**Contracts & Conservation Plans:**

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) Professional Services Contract – Craig Nelson presented the USCSRB contract for \$8,000 which will fund the design and installation of two interpretive signs along the trail on Conservancy Island in Okanogan. Lorah Super moved to approve the contract for the design and installation of two interpretive signs. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** Sarah Troutman-Zahn reported that NRCS will have a wildfire Environmental Quality Incentives Program sign-up. She stated that local staff are not looking forward to the workload, especially not knowing if, or how much funding will be made available. She informed that they believe funding for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program will arrive soon.

She reported that not only will Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) proposal announcements be made this month, but the Joint Chiefs Initiative proposals will be announced as well.

**Agency Reports:**

**Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)** – Mike Baden stressed that this is the time of year to start thinking, not only about Conservation District elections, but also about Annual Plans and Schedule 22 evaluations. The Conservation Commission is working on a survey of Conservation Districts, to determine which Districts may be strongly considering requesting a Rates and Charges funding proposal. There will likely also be a FireWise questionnaire coming out soon.

Mike informed that Bill Eller has moved from his role as a Regional Manager to the Voluntary Stewardship Program Manager for the Commission. Bill will still be involved in emergency management and district elections to some significant degree.

Mike reported that the WSCC and Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) is asking Conservation Districts to push to have agricultural groups and partners at the local level get more involved in contacting legislators about what the district's programs mean to them and why funding for district projects is important.

**Public Report:**

Sam Israel returned and reiterated his interest in conservation planning and the District's programs.

**Old Business**

**Voluntary Stewardship Program** – Craig Nelson reported that he and Amy Martin traveled to Moses Lake for a two day training on this program thinking that the District would be asked to take over the role of management. Two days later Craig received an email from Perry Huston with Okanogan County Planning, that the county planned to manage the program in house.

Craig added that it is still important to stay in touch with what is happening, but not necessarily be involved.

**January/February Monthly Plan** – There are Water Rights workshops scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, a CREP training for January 26, 2016, a Science Conference on January 27- 28<sup>th</sup> and a Livestock Handling session on January 19, 2016. Kim Simpson informed the Board that the District will not be involved in the Conconully Outhouse races, due to lack of participants.

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

### **New Business**

**WACD Legislative Days** – Legislative Days will be held on February 22 – 23<sup>rd</sup> in Olympia and there was discussion about who should attend. Craig Nelson stated that meetings will be set up with other legislators to talk about our needs and Lorah Super suggested setting up some meetings with people who do not usually support conservation districts. Steve Colvin moved to authorize two supervisors and three employees to attend WACD Legislative Days. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

**Annual Plan** – Craig Nelson explained that the District’s Long Range Plan will not need to be worked on until next year, but that the Annual Plan was due to the WSCC by the end of May. The Supervisors advised that District staff prepare the plan for the board’s review.

**Assessment Renewal** – Craig Nelson informed that this is the last year for the District’s assessment. He explained that we will need to have a new resolution to authorize an assessment and hold at least one public meeting. Everything will need to be submitted to the County Commissioners by August and then the Commissioners will hold their own hearing after August. There are two options for the Board of Supervisors to decide on, an assessment like we have now, or a rates and charges. Lorah Super moved to authorize Craig Nelson to evaluate if other nearby Conservation Districts are going with a rates and charges model and to work collaboratively with them to search for a firm to assist with the development of such a system and to recruit the Okanogan County to assist with the transition. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Staff Training** – Craig Nelson informed that Leslie Michel has expressed interest in a Master’s degree, which would cost around \$6,000 a year, for three years. After discussion, Albert Roberts moved to allow Leslie Michel to attend one class, Soil Fertility 441 and asked that a policy on staff training be brought forth before the end of March, and that the policy be adopted no later than April. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 8:34 PM.

