



1251 2ND AVENUE SOUTH – ROOM 102, OKANOGAN, WA 98840
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TO: The Record
SUBJECT: June 5, 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 |
| Jerry Asmussen, Vice-Chair | Leslie Michel, Conservation Planner |
| Albert Roberts, Auditor | Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor |
| Lorah Super, Member | Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor |
| Craig Nelson, District Manager | Sarah Troutman-Zahn, NRCS |
| Kim Simpson, District Treasurer | Bill Eller, WSCC |
| Bob Clark, Technical Coordinator | Chris Fisher, CCT Fish and Wildlife Dept. |
| Kirsten Cook, Conservation Educator | |

Meeting Call to Order: Jerry Asmussen called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Agenda: Jerry Asmussen asked for changes to the agenda. District staff asked to have the Natural Resources Conservation Service – Okanogan Conservation District Cooperative Working Agreement, and several cooperator conservation plans added to the **Review, approve and sign contracts and conservation plans**, and approved leave for jury duty added to **New Business**. Albert Roberts moved to approve the agenda as revised. Lorah Super seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Albert Roberts moved to approve the May 2014 minutes as written. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #733, which covers the checking account activity for May 3, 2014 to June 5, 2014, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment: Payroll direct withdrawals on 5-19-14 totaling \$7,957.18, payroll direct withdrawals on 6-4-14 totaling \$7,942.47, voucher (check) numbers; 9978 - 9999 totaling \$154,818.53, direct withdrawals on 5-3-14 totaling \$6.61, on 5-5-14 totaling \$600.00, on 5-5-14 totaling \$164.56, on 5-14-14 totaling \$3,356.34, on 5-16-14 totaling \$2,932.48, on 5-16-14 totaling \$12.61, on 5-20-14 totaling \$164.56, on 5-20-14 totaling \$600.00, on 5-23-14 totaling

\$111.51, on 5-23-14 totaling \$142.22, on 5-23-14 totaling \$2,932.46, on 6-3-14 totaling \$12.66, on 6-5-14 totaling \$164.56, on 6-5-14 totaling \$630.00 on 6-5-14 totaling \$781.17 and transfers to savings of \$91,283.00. The deposits totaled \$215,822.42, and expenditures totaled \$274,612.92. Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #733 as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The District has run out of checks, so Kim asked for authorization to pay the following additional payments when the checks arrive: AgForestry Leadership for \$500.00, Craig Nelson for \$167.85 and Albert Roberts for \$711.67. Lorah Super moved to authorize these three payments to be paid, when the checks arrive. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Lorah Super – Lorah reported she participated in the Pioneer walk with the Oroville fifth graders and it was a hoot! Lorah, Albert, and Craig have all taken turns participating in the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative. She reported that they will be spending the month of August at the Diamond Bell Ranch again.

Albert Roberts – Albert reported that it is a normal spring time...busy. He reported that he attended a meeting in Portland, Oregon between the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative and the USDA Forest Service Regional Forester. He said that the meeting was positive as Forest Service staff are very supportive of this project and felt it was a way to work with private landowners and get the continuity of landscape. They recognize Conservation Districts as a vehicle for forming a rapport with private landowners that are often adjacent to Forest Service properties.

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry reported that he has a new main line. He also stated that the bank stabilization project he has been working on with Conservation District cost-share from the Bonaparte Creek grant finished yesterday.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

Randy Kelley – Randy reported that he attended the Oden Road Fire presentation this month and is working with Okanogan High School Advanced Biology students on that and multiple other subject areas. The rest of his time is taken up with landscaping and yard care.

District Manager and Staff Reports:

Craig Nelson reported that he is working with staff to put together the budget for the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) biennial budget request. Craig explained how this year's process is somewhat different from previous years. One negative, in Craig's opinion, is that Districts are being asked to rank/order implementation projects now, that will be submitted for consideration in a Capital Budget ask. Craig suggested that he could write a letter to the WSCC on behalf of the Okanogan Conservation District requesting the Commission consider holding off the ranking until sometime next year, closer to when funding is distributed. This would allow Districts to submit their current lists, but also add new projects that might outrank

current projects next year. This way, the Commission, Legislature, and public will get the best projects funded next year, even if the funding is based off other projects submitted. The budget request is due to the WSCC by July 11 and must be approved by the Board so we will be discussing this next month.

Craig noted that the Riparian Grazing training went well and that folks appreciated the Conservation District hosting it. Craig talked about the Forest Health Collaborative meeting he attended, in which membership was discussed. The Okanogan Conservation District was not on the membership list and they felt it should be. The District needs to provide a letter stating the desire to participate, that participants will abide by the ground rules and a list of the member and alternates. Craig stated that the group is moving forward positively, but it still has issues to resolve.

Leslie Michel brought pictures of Jerry Asmussen's project to stabilize a portion of Bonaparte Creek's stream bank through his property. She showed before and after photos and explained the purpose of each aspect of the work that was done. Jerry explained that one of the problems they are trying to address, is the stream incising during winter months when the surface is frozen.

Leslie also distributed a handout related to the dryland cover crop trials she is working on with Edd Townsend of T3 Ranch, Cooperative Extension, and others. She talked about the field day they had and how it worked out that folks were able to come and have a good discussion with other farmers and a number of agency folks.

Bob Clark reported Dunning Irrigation has installed the last of the screens they wish to install due to the distance they have to travel. Therefore, he hosted another 'show-me' trip on behalf of the irrigators we are working on for the coming round and several contractors showed interest.

Terri Williams announced that she has received the signed paper work for the Integrated Aquatic Vegetative Management Plan grant.

Kirsten Cook reported on Envirothon results and Ecology of the Okanogan class did well but were tripped up on a few items mostly due to lack of experience. They learned a lot and have some returning students next year along with several new students.

Kim Simpson reported that she has the final numbers for the Plant Sale. She handed out a spreadsheet that shows profit and loss for each year going back to 2002. Kim also reported that the District Annual Financial Report was completed, submitted, and included in the board meeting packet.

Contracts & Conservation Plans

Terri Williams presented the following four conservation plans:

Troy Acord – Terri reported that in the last two years we have been able to put some funding and assistance into helping Troy move his feed lot away from Beaver Creek and other work related to improving water quality of the creek. This plan is to install a trough to distribute the

livestock evenly across the field. The total project is \$2,454, with a cost share request of \$1,841.04.

Robert Egusquiza – This project is on a hog farm up near Havillah on Mt. Hull. Robert is quite a distance from water, but is interested in some assistance with developing rotational paddocks. The total project cost is \$51,953.68, with a cost share request of \$25,976.84.

Mariah Cornwoman – This project is along Bannon Creek (a Bonaparte Creek tributary). Mariah's plan includes many conservation practices that address water quality issues she is getting from livestock that come onto her property from nearby public grazing permits. The project will require some engineering to look at slope stabilization projects. The total project cost is \$23,110.23, with a cost share request of \$11,432.19.

Tom Orcutt – This project is in the Pete Creek watershed north of Winthrop. Tom is also dealing with open range cattle that come for water to a pond on his property. This cost-share application will help fund a fence (not a property boundary fence) to exclude livestock from the pond and associated surface waters. Total cost for the project is \$17,787.00, with a cost share request of 13,340.25.

Lorah moved to approve conservation plans for Troy Accord, Robert Egusquiza, Mariah Cornwoman, Tom Orcutt, and Bill Swanson with the option to adjust the cost share amount. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Supervisors directed Craig to write a letter to the Conservation Commission asking them to consider allowing the ranking of projects at a later time or to come up with a process that would allow this to happen.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Conservation District Cooperative Working Agreement – Craig Nelson explained that NRCS wanted all of these agreements in place by the end of July. Lorah Super moved to approve the NRCS-CD Cooperative Working Agreement and Addenda B-G. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Sarah Troutman-Zahn, Natural Resources Conservation Service: Sarah distributed a written report and described the status of existing applications for Farm Bill programs. She stated that the NRCS has received the same allocation as offered in December and that applications are now in pre-approved status. Sarah also reported that the NRCS is working to revise the Statewide Resource Assessment. A core group was identified and Sarah hopes to have county specific packages for the group this month.

Sarah reported that the NRCS is looking to add a task order with the Okanogan Conservation District, which will involve various field activities from July 30, 2014 through September 15, 2014. She gave an update on the office air quality issue, which has been going on since April

9th, 2014. The NRCS and Farm Service Agencies have been working out of trailers in the parking lot and they hope the issue will be resolved in the near future.

Sarah reported that Alan McBee from Colorado was selected as the Central Area Conservationist and will begin work in July. Amy Hendershot will be leaving the team in July, since she accepted a position as District Conservationist in Puyallup, Washington.

Sarah gave an update on the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and Critical Conservation Areas (CCA). She reported that Secretary Vilsack announced that the Columbia Basin is one of eight Critical Conservation Areas in the United States. This CCA is focused on salmon recovery. They want requests on a broad geographical area with multiple partners who are contributing financially. The NRCS's goal is 50% contribution from partners.

Agency Reports:

Chris Fisher, Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) – Chris introduced himself as a fisheries biologist for the CCT. He stated that there has been some misinformation being spread about work being proposed in the Johnson Creek watershed. There was a meeting held on the day after Memorial Day that included several local agencies (CCT, NRCS, OCD, and Trout Unlimited). He said he is here tonight to dispel some rumors that are not true. First, is that the Colville Confederated Tribes had stocked Johnson Creek with steelhead. He reported that the Colville Confederated Tribes have planted steelhead in Omak, Salmon, Nine Mile, Antoine, Tunk, and Aeneas Creeks, but never in Johnson Creek. He also discussed the purchase and acquisition of properties in critical habitat reaches. He said it is one tool they use, but not their first priority because of the responsibility that comes with land ownership and management. He stated that the Colville Confederated Tribes have never solicited landowner's to sell their property for fisheries management. Each time a purchase was made, they were approached by the landowner and they have not purchased every property that was offered.

In addition, it was said that Trout Unlimited put forth a request for funding to remediate a fish 'barrier'. Chris stated that the word barrier is somewhat of a misnomer in this case, as the obstacle Trout Unlimited is proposing to remove is not a total blockage to Summer Steelhead passage, but an impediment. He said that they installed a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag array in the system and have learned that some fish have gone past the barrier, including an observation of a steelhead in Johnson Creek above Green Acres road.

Bill Eller, Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) – Bill noted that the North Central Washington, Washington Association Conservation District Area Meeting will be held on October 15, 2014. Bill reported that the WSCC distributed many polices looking for comments (elections, cultural resources, etc.). He reminded the group that comments and proposed changes for the draft election and appointment policy are due to the WSCC by July 7, 2014. Bill noted that the WSCC board meeting and tour would be held in Okanogan County this year and plans for the tour were discussed.

Public Report:

There was no public present at the meeting.

Old Business

Office Space – Craig Nelson gave an update on the search for new office space. He reported that there was a possibility that the District may be able to stay in the office for another six months, since the owner of the building was not given proper advanced notice of the District's leaving. Craig has been working with the County about possible space in the Health Department building. He also received a quote from the owner of the building we are currently in, but it was considerably higher than other options in the area.

June & July Monthly Plan – The plan was reviewed and there were no recommended changes.

Other – There was no other old business.

New Business

Board of Supervisors office selection – Kim Simpson informed the board that it was time to select officers for the coming year. Jerry Asmussen moved to have all District officers retain their current positions; Ivan Oberg as Chair, Jerry Asmussen as Vice Chair and Albert Roberts as Auditor. Lorah seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Cost Share Rate of Reimbursement & Labor Rate Resolution – Kim Simpson informed that the WSCC requires the District to submit an annual resolution stating the rate of reimbursement for cost share and cooperator labor rate. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve Resolution 2014-03, with a cost share rate of up to 75% and a cooperator labor rate of \$20.00. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Conservation Practices of Significant Conservation Value and Exempt from Increased Taxable Valuation Resolution – Craig Nelson explained that the District is required under RCW 89.08.440 to maintain a list of best management practices and that the current listed needed to be updated. Albert Roberts moved to approve Resolution 2014-02 Conservation Practices of Significant Conservation Value and Exempt from Increased Taxable Valuation. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approved Leave for Jury Duty – Craig Nelson noted that our current personnel policies do not allow district employees sick leave for jury duty, only vacation leave. He asked the board to consider allowing employees to use sick leave as well as vacation leave. Jerry Asmussen moved to allow District employees to use sick leave for jury duty, but stipulated that employees must reimburse the District for any payment they receive for their time, while serving as a juror. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 9:17 PM.

Summary of Motions

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

Albert Roberts moved to approve the May 2014 minutes as written. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #733 as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to authorize three other payments to be paid, when the checks arrive. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah moved to approve conservation plans for Troy Accord, Robert Egusquiza, Mariah Cornwoman, Tom Orcutt and Bill Swanson with the option to adjust the cost share amount. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the NRCS-CD Cooperative Working Agreement and Addenda B-G. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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Ivan Oberg, Chair Date 7/3/14


Kim Simpson, District Treasurer Date 7/3/14