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**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** October 4, 2012 Board of Supervisors Meeting  
**LOCATION:** USDA Service Center, Okanogan, WA  
**FROM:** Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

**PRESENT:**

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Albert Roberts, District Auditor
Lorah Super, Member	Wes Hover, Member
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Kim Simpson, District Treasurer
Bob Clark, Technical Coordinator	Kirsten Cook, Conservation Educator
Terri Williams, Conservation Planner	Leslie Michel, Conservation Planner
Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor	Randy Kelley, NRCS
Bill Eller, WSCC	

**Regular Meeting Call To Order:** Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

**Agenda:** The agenda was presented. There were no changes

**Approval of Minutes:** Ivan Oberg asked for comments on the **September 6, 2012 minutes**. Lorah Super moved to approve the minutes as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #713**, which covers the checking account activity for September 7, 2012 to October 4, 2012, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment:

Payroll direct withdrawals; on 9-19-12 totaling \$8,023.44,  
Payroll direct withdrawals; on 10-3-12 totaling \$8,023.46,  
Voucher (check) numbers; 9636 to 9654 totaling \$112,206.48,  
Direct withdrawals on 9-12-12 totaling \$2,585.32, on 9-18-12 totaling \$12.60, on 9-19-12 totaling \$189.56, on 9-20-12 totaling \$160.00, on 9-25-12 totaling \$2,454.91, on 9-25-12 totaling \$15.15, on 9-25-12 totaling \$431.84, on 9-25-12 totaling \$143.41, on 9-25-12 totaling \$300.00, on 9-28-12 totaling \$193.93, on 10-2-12 totaling \$200.00 on 10-2-12 totaling \$12.60, on 10-3-12 totaling \$189.56, on 10-4-12 totaling \$160.00 and on 9-18-72 a transfer of \$102.00 to the savings account. The deposits totaled \$109,817.51 and expenditures totaled \$135,163.28. Wes Hover moved to approve Treasurer's Report #713 as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Supervisor Reports:**

**Lorah Super** stated that **fires** near her place and around the valley have had a big impact. Many folks in the Methow Valley still have red eyes and coughing as a result of the smoke. There are many folks in the region that are taking note of how quickly these fires are moving and what their risks are as property owners. She made contact with a landowner that is very interested in some conservation assistance and encouraged them to contact the Conservation District and NRCS.

**Ivan Oberg** said he received a thank you note from **Dave Vogel**, Executive Director of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts who thanked Ivan and the Board for hosting him at our last meeting.

**Albert Roberts** reported that the **St. Mary's Mission Fire** appears to be arson and has taken out two homes and several outbuildings, farm equipment, and stacked hay. The fire moved incredibly fast, five miles in less than 15 minutes, in 40+ miles per hour winds.

**Wes Hover** reported that they probably had their best **third cutting** they have ever had, but due to smoke from the fires it was difficult to work the fields effectively. He reported that this is the first time that he can remember that his operation ran under their allotment for water from the **Wolf Creek Ditch** thanks to the pivots they just installed.

**Contracts & Conservation Plans**

Craig explained that the **Title III grant** to conduct **Firewise Education** activities was approved and signed by the Okanogan County Commissioners for \$30,000 and needed a signature before the end of September. Ivan Oberg already signed the contract, but the Board needs to approve the contract. Lorah Super moved to approve signing the contract. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**District Manager and Staff Reports:**

Craig Nelson reported that staff is making progress on three **Ecology grant applications** that the board already approved submitting. He informed the board that he would sign the applications before submission, since the applications are due about the same time as the November meeting.

Craig then reported that the Washington Resource Conservation Office, which implements the **Family Forest Fish Passage Program** (FFFPP), contacted the **Ferry Conservation District** about possibly sponsoring a project on **Toroda Creek**. Lloyd Odell, Ferry CD Manager, looked at the project location and found that it was actually located in Okanogan County. Lloyd talked with Craig about whether Okanogan CD would want to sponsor the project, or enter into an agreement with Ferry CD to have them implement the project, because the project is much closer to their office than it is to ours. Craig said that while the program is good, in this case he recommends that we enter into an agreement with Ferry CD to have them implement this project. Craig explained that this is better for our District in two ways. First, the distance is considerable

and it would take a tremendous effort to stay on top of the project from that distance. Secondly, and probably more importantly, having Ferry CD implement the project will show we can and do collaborate with other Districts to reduce costs to the public and implement projects with an eye to administrative efficiencies. After some discussion, the Board directed Craig to contact Lloyd Odell and work out an agreement to have the Ferry CD implement the project, with the stipulation that Ferry CD explain to the landowner that they are doing this work on Okanogan CD's behalf to reduce public costs for the project. Craig said he would bring the agreement to the Board at the next meeting.

Next, Craig reported that the Stevens County Conservation District will be hosting the annual 7<sup>th</sup> **District Legislative Update Meeting** on November 13 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 PM at their office in Colville. Craig asked that any of the supervisors who wish to attend to let him know so attendees could all ride together. Craig mentioned that it might be a good idea to meet with the 12<sup>th</sup> District legislators, as we have not done so in recent years and the 12<sup>th</sup> District encompasses a significant portion of the Okanogan Conservation District.

Bob Clark reported that he is continuing to work with landowners on the screening program and working to seek additional funding.

Kirsten reported that she was interviewed for the **Firewise** program by the Methow Valley News and the article was very good. She said that she is hoping the article will increase interest in the valley for a Firewise workshop she is hoping to hold in the Carlton area soon.

Bob Clark reported that he and Kirsten attended a **workshop** today in the **Sinlahekin Wildlife Area** on the use of prescribed fire as a conservation tool. The workshop was well attended and very informative.

Terri Williams reported that she continues to work with **Troy Accord** on his project to move his winter feeding area from Beaver Creek up into a sheltered valley away from the stream. Terri contacted Jerri Timm, from the Washington Water Trust, who is putting together a grant application to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for funding to fund the remainder of the project. Additional funding is necessary to implement the project. Jerri asked Terri for a **letter of support** from the Okanogan CD for the grant. Terri presented the letter for approval. Lorah Super moved to approve the letter of support as presented. Wes Hover seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Terri reported that Anna Lyons from the **Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board** contacted Terri about a grant application she would like the District to assist her with. Anna has asked if the District could complete the grant application on behalf of the weed board. The project is to conduct an **inventory of aquatic noxious weeds** in the Okanogan and possibly apply some control techniques for targeted locations. There was discussion between staff and board about the use of District staff time and costs to complete the project. The Board directed staff to talk to Anna and indicate that we can help them with this request only if the Weed Board will refund the District for our costs to complete the application.

Kim reported that she has new bank signature forms, so Lorah Super can be on our account with her married name and she will pass the signature cards around for the supervisors to sign. Kim next reported that she has started tracking what our expenses are for vehicle use and what we bring in for charging funding sources for mileage. The numbers indicate that in 2012 to date, we are more than \$2,000 in the black and she suggested that at the end of each calendar year we transfer these funds into a designated fund for **vehicle purchase**. The Board directed staff to draft up a resolution for this and present it at the November Board meeting.

#### **Natural Resources Conservation Services:**

Randy Kelley reported that his staff has been busy lately responding to requests for assistance for burned area recovery including assisting other federal agencies with **assessments of the areas burned near Wenatchee** over the past month. Randy reported that initial assessments of the burned areas are that the majority of the areas didn't burn very hot and may have actually helped considerably with removing understory brush and grasses. Chelan County will be sponsoring an **Emergency Watershed Protection project** from NRCS. Bill Eller said that if we have some estimates of damage and recovery costs for burned areas, to send the information to him and he will be working with other Commission staff to provide this information from all over Washington State to the Governor's Office.

In other news, Randy reported that Congress did not approve a new **Farm Bill** before their fall recess. NRCS is operating under a continuing resolution until Congress reconvenes and approves a budget. All Federal conservation programs and applications are on hold for processing or approving new contracts. Existing contracts are okay to continue implementation.

#### **Agency Reports:**

Bill Eller, **Washington State Conservation Commission** Central Region Manager, stated that he doesn't have much more than the fire information that Randy already reported on.

#### **Old Business**

**Cost Share Policy** – The Board reviewed the policy as presented. Lorah Super moved to approve Cost Share Policy 2-12 as presented. Wes Hover seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**WACD Resolutions** – The Board directed Craig to work with Ivan on a resolution for extending **Commission Implementation funds** to two years, instead of the current year. The Board directed Craig to work with Albert on modifying the Districts resolution 2012-01 **Out of County Water Transfers** for more of a statewide scope.

#### **Task List**

- #2 – The Cost Share Policy was approved tonight, so it can be removed from the list.
- #10 – Dale Swedberg is not currently seeking applications, so this can be removed from the list.
- #13 – This can be removed, as the WACD resolutions will be complete this month.

There was no other old business.

**New Business**

**WACD NC Area Meeting Attendance** – Craig Nelson and Albert Roberts were approved to attend the Area Meeting. Randy Kelley, NRCS, will also be attending.

**WACD Annual Meeting Attendance** – Wes Hover moved to authorize hotel and registration for Ivan and Gerri Oberg, Wes Hover, Lorah Super, Albert Roberts, Craig Nelson, Bob Clark, Kim Simpson, and Kirsten Cook to attend the 2012 WACD Annual meeting. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**UCSRB – Screening Targeted Track Project Funding Application** – Bob explained that there is a new funding opportunity through the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board. The applications are due this month and if approved, projects can begin no sooner than October 1, 2013. Projects that are approved, can be ‘fast tracked’ for future funding requests for staged projects. Albert moved to approve the submission of the Screening Targeted Track Project abstract and full application if invited to submit for this project. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**UCSRB – Upper Okanogan Water Quality Targeted Track Project Funding Application** – Bob explained that this proposal is to be a complementary application to support the application we are submitting to the Department of Ecology for the Upper Okanogan. Albert moved to approve the submission of the Upper Okanogan Water Quality Targeted Track Project abstract and the full application, if invited to submit for this project. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Purchase Policy – Cooperator Conservation Tools** – Craig explained that staff learned that we need a policy in place to provide conservation tools such as our pasture sticks to cooperators. Staff will be working to develop a policy for the Board to review at the November Board meeting. Bill Eller said he will check with other CDs to see if anyone else has such a policy that we could use to develop ours from.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 8:26 PM.

**Summary of Motions**

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

Wes Hover moved to approve Treasurer’s Report #713 as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

