



1251 2ND AVENUE SOUTH – ROOM 102, OKANOGAN, WA 98840
PHONE: (509) 422-0855 EXT. 5 • FAX: (509) 422-0532 • WEB: WWW.OKANOGANCD.ORG

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: September 5, 2013 Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: USDA Service Center, Okanogan, WA
FROM: Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Terri Williams, Conservation Planner
Albert Roberts, Auditor	Leslie Michel, Conservation Planner
Lorah Super, Member	Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor
Steve Colvin, Member	Sarah Troutman-Zahn, NRCS
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Bill Eller, WA State Conservation Commission
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	Garry Schalla, Okanogan Land Trust
Bob Clark, Technical Coordinator	Jerry Barnes, Landowner
Kirsten Cook, Conservation Educator	Dale Swedberg, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Meeting Call to Order: Albert Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:02PM. Ivan Oberg was running late to get to the meeting as he was working our booth at the Okanogan County Fair this afternoon.

Agenda: Albert Roberts asked for changes to the agenda. Staff asked to add four conservation plans and one contract to Contracts and Plans and the Young Farmers Coalition Sponsorship to old business. Lorah Super moved to approve the agenda as amended. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Albert Roberts asked for comments on the August 1, 2013 minutes. Lorah Super moved to approve the minutes as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #724, which covers the checking account activity for August 2, 2013 to September 5, 2013, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment:

Payroll direct withdrawals on 8-19-13 totaling \$7,741.98, Payroll direct withdrawals on 9-3-13 totaling \$7,742.00, Voucher (check) numbers; 9806 - 9828 totaling \$104,911.08, Direct withdrawals on 8-5-13 totaling \$164.56, on 8-05-13 totaling \$412.00, on 8-05-13 totaling \$2,749.90, on 8-08-13 totaling \$3,180.10, on 8-17-13 totaling \$12.61, on 8-19-13 totaling

\$164.56 , on 8-20-13 totaling \$412.00, on 8-22-13 totaling \$2,749.90, on 8-23-13 totaling \$554.47, on 8-23-13 totaling \$331.46, on 8-30-13 totaling \$163.19, on 8-30-13 totaling \$12.61, on 9-4-13 totaling \$412.00, on 9-4-13 totaling 164.56 and transfers of \$6,175.00 to the savings account. The deposits totaled \$109,599.65 and expenditures totaled \$131,878.71. Steve Colvin moved to approve Treasurer's Report #724 as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Lorah Super – Lorah spent time with the landowners at the Diamond Bell Ranch working on a forest thinning project. Lorah reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service Cultural Resource employee showed up at her project at her place while she was away. They wandered around the property and checked out the wrong area for her hoop house, so she will need to reschedule a visit from them. She took part in a NCW Forest Health Collaborative conference call.

Ivan Oberg arrived at the meeting and began chairing the meeting.

Steve Colvin – Reported that the slow food meeting at the winery was a success with around 40 people in attendance and the Garlic Fest was great. He stated he has a lot going on right now. Steve also mentioned that there is a new restaurant in Bridgeport that uses local food

Albert Roberts – Reported that he is buried in hay and equipment right now. He also stated that he was asked by Deep Baines, who purchased the old Food Depot building, about our need for office space. Mr. Baines plans to have local vendors in the store selling food.

Public Comments:

Jerry Barnes – Spoke about a meeting with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) Technical Team. He said that they do not seem to know what conservation districts are about. Jerry let them know that conservation districts are not regulatory. Craig Nelson mentioned that he is frustrated with the UCSRB's ranking of projects. He explained that one of the Districts screening projects was originally ranked in sixth place and there was enough money to fund through eight projects, but two projects were moved up, displacing the District's project.

Garry Schalla, Okanogan Land Trust (OLT): Garry has been with OLT for two years now and presented what the OLT does and what the benefits of conservation easements are. The organization preserves the area's rural way of life by protecting working land, open space and wildlife habitats. They are there to help landowners preserve their land for future generations. OLT identifies, values, and ranks the land to see how it values out and how it fits with funding. Garry said that "the more you grow with partnerships, the more you grow as a community".

Associate Supervisor Reports:

No Associate Supervisors were present during this time.

District Manager and Staff Reports:

Craig Nelson conveyed information he receive from Jay Kehne with Conservation Northwest regarding a compost facility. Jay met with producers called the Blackfoot Challenge in Montana and got a better picture of how they have been able to keep livestock losses and predators to a bare minimum. They have a Carcass Program Steering group. There will be a meeting in Colville, Washington on October 14 & 15, 2013 and the Board of Supervisors directed Craig to attend.

Craig informed that the District is slated to host the Washington State Conservation Commission board meeting and tour on July 16 and 17th of next year. The board has until September 18, 2014 to decide if they would like to take this on.

Craig noted that after Jack Myrick took a look at the Troy Accord project and felt that there may be options to help get a full water right for the landowner, but Elliot Kooy of Kooy's Irrigation disagrees. Craig explained the two options that Jack felt might work. Lorah Super said that there was a need to evaluate the alternatives.

Kim Simpson asked if any of the Board Supervisors would like an appointment calendar that Enduris issues.

Terri Williams stated that the Similkameen project that she submitted to the Salmon Recovery Fund was only partially funded from the Tributary fund. She mentioned that the Colville Confederated Tribes has an interest in the project and the Department of Ecology grant.

Bob Clark informed the board that he continues to work with the Colville Confederated Tribes to do more screens.

Contracts & Conservation Plans

Department of Natural Resources Contract – Craig Nelson informed the board that we finally have a fully signed copy of this agreement for \$14,000.00 to do transect monitoring.

Conservation Plans – Terri Williams presented the following four conservation plans for approval:

- **Troy Acord** – Fencing project for a total cost of \$17,463.60 and \$13,097.60 in cost share.
- **Derek Olma** – Move feed lot and pump installation for a total cost of \$17,562.63 and \$13,171.97 in cost share.
- **Leah Orroyo** – Irrigation project for a total cost of \$30,110.12 and \$22,532.59 in cost share.

- **Geral Schulz** – Spring box improvement project for a total cost of \$24,406.70 and \$18,305.03 in cost share.

The ranking process was discussed and staff informed the board that Troy Acord's project received the highest ranking followed by Derek Olma's project. Lorah Super moved to approve the four conservation plans and also to authorize the top two projects as ranked by staff. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Sarah Troutman-Zahn reported that they need to start working on the cooperative agreements with Conservation Districts, since the agreements need to be in place by July 1, 2014. She thanked the District staff for their hard work on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and commented that their efforts with the tedious, frustrating work were making a big difference in their work load. Sarah reported that NRCS has their first agreement with the Colville Confederated Tribes for Cultural Resources.

Agency Reports:

Dale Swedberg WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW): - Dale Swedberg stated that he is impressed with the Blackfoot Challenge, Malpai Borderlands Group communities and their inspirational effort in land conservation. Dale also informed that the State Land Commissioner has revoked burn ban exemptions to protect the butterfly populations. He reinstated the burn ban exemption. The Washington Prescribed Fire council will address these issues. The assistant manager of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, Justin Haug, was selected for the manager position. Lorah made a motion for Craig Nelson to write a letter of support for the WA Prescribed fire council Albert seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Bill Eller (WSCC) – Bill Eller was present, but needed to leave early, so there was no report from him.

Old Business

WACD Resolutions and Area Meeting Attendance – Two resolutions were discussed, one on what Conservation Districts believe is the express function of the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD). The other resolution is regarding the use of funds from the WACD auction. Lorah Super made a motion to create the drafts and then present them during the area meeting in October. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Attendance for the North Central Washington WACD area meeting was discussed and it was decided that Albert Roberts, Lorah Super, Craig Nelson, Bob Clark and Kim Simpson would attend.

Deb Gregory has asked for a conference call to implement a new strategy for WACD resolutions, possibly on October 16th, 2013 to coincide with the Officers and Directors meeting. The first resolution would be regarding the alignment of state and local resource priorities and working together with other agencies. The second is regarding the resolution from 2010 – 2011, that talks about taking 319 funds from WA Department of Ecology and have them given to the WSCC,

which could harm our relationship with Ecology. We need to try to build our relationship with the Washington Department of Ecology.

September Monthly Plan of Work – The plan was reviewed and there were no comments made.

Washington Young Farmers Coalition – A mixer will be held October 6, 2013 and a sponsorship of \$200.00 would give us a booth space and recognition in all of their advertising. This would be an excellent opportunity to increase awareness of our programs. Lorah Super made a motion to approve sponsorship of \$200.00 for the Washington Young Farmers Coalition mixer. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Other – There was no other old business.

New Business

Election Manual Comments – After review and discussion Lorah Super made a motion to send in the comments that staff drafted regarding the manual, but to note that their preference would be to throw out the manual and have some serious revisions of the election process. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Wildlife Corridor Project – Craig Nelson reported that Jay Kehne from the Conservation Northwest is working on a project to protect the large wildlife ecosystem in the migratory corridor in the Tonasket area. Funding would come from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and would include partnering with the Okanogan Land Trust. The project would implement a program to identify projects that will improve the migratory zone for wildlife. The District could assist by working one on one with landowners and providing technical assistance. The board asked to have Jay come to the next board meeting to present, if time permits.

WACD Strategic Plan Comments – After discussing the comments Lorah Super moved to send the WACD Strategic Plan comments as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Other – There was no other new business.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Summary of Motions

Lorah Super moved to approve the agenda as amended. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously

Super moved to approve the minutes as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve Treasurer's Report #724 as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the four conservation plans and also to authorize the top two projects as ranked by staff. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Summary of Motions – Continued

Lorah made a motion for Craig Nelson to write a letter of support for the WA Prescribed fire council Albert seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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Ivan Oberg, Chair Date

Kim Simpson, District Treasurer Date