



# Okanogon Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogon, WA 98840

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**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** September 6, 2016 Board of Supervisors Meeting  
**LOCATION:** Okanogon Conservation District office, Okanogon, WA  
**FROM:** Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

**PRESENT:**

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Leslie Michel, Soil Scientist
Albert Roberts, Auditor	Mindy Widell, Natural Resource Technician
Lorah Super, Supervisor	Zach Day, Natural Resource Technician
Steve Colvin, Supervisor	Allisa Carlson, Wildlife Conservation Planner
Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor	Stacie Powers, Intern
Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor	Kyle McGovern, Natural Resource Technician
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Kim Kogler, Natural Resource Technician
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	Juan Ledezma, Financial Assistant
Bob Clark, Sr. Conservation Planner	Stan Janowicz, NRCS
Kirsten Cook, Conservation Educator	Dale Swedberg, WDFW
Terri Williams, Conservation Planner	

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

**Agenda:** Staff asked to add Albert Robert's Cost Share Appeal to "Contracts and Conservation Plans", an Employee Training Policy and a Special Training Agreement to "New Business". Lorah Super moved to approve the agenda as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Ivan Oberg asked that Lorah Super be allowed to be a temporary Chair for this meeting. Albert Roberts moved to allow Lorah Super to be a temporary Chair for the board meeting. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ivan Oberg moved to approve the August 2016 regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #760,** which covers the checking account activity from August 4, 2016 to September 6, 2016, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment: Payroll direct withdrawals on 8-18-2016 totaling \$17,904.02, on 9-6-16 totaling \$18,920.74 voucher (check) numbers; 10654 - 10670 totaling \$45,805.16, direct withdrawals on 8-4-16 totaling \$1,690.00, on 8-9-16 totaling \$6,035.74, on 8-15-16 totaling \$8,001.40, on 8-17-16 totaling \$2,196.75, on 8-19-16 totaling \$1,690.00, on 8-22-16 totaling \$356.67, on 8-22-16 totaling \$353.83, on 8-22-16 totaling \$1,460.28, on 8-22-16

totaling \$954.25, on 8-22-16 totaling \$115.98, on 8-22-16 totaling \$63.10, on 8-23-16 totaling \$6,210.36 and transfers to savings of \$1,600.00. The deposits totaled \$127,972.46 and expenditures totaled \$113,358.28. Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #760 as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Supervisor Reports:**

**Steve Colvin** – Steve reported that there was a fire in the northern part of the county, burning around six to seven acres and working its way towards Ivan Oberg's. The fires have caused a fluctuation of interesting wildlife including bears and cougars, which are feeding on the deer and helping protect his grapes. He added that his grapes should be ready by the weekend.

**Albert Roberts** – Albert thanked the board for allowing him to get his hay picked up last month during the board meeting. He reported that the river is holding at a good level, although there is a considerable amount of slimy green algae this year.

**Ivan Oberg** – Ivan reported that he and Gerri plan to do some more traveling. They spent time in Canada and said they have an interesting way of doing things.

**Lorah Super** – Lorah reported that the dike that blew out should be fixed by October 23, 2016. She said she noticed that dead trees on French Creek have white x's on them, so she hopes that someone plans to take them down. Lorah reported that she worked with Craig on the training policy, attended an Economic Development meeting on wood products and a Forest Health Collaborative meeting. She added that things are going well on the farm.

### **Associate Supervisor Reports:**

**Randy Kelley** – Randy reported that he assisted Craig Nelson with a Rates and Charges presentation at the Okanogan Rotary. He has also been providing guidance to Zach Day and Alissa Carlson on their conservation plans.

### **District Manager and Staff Reports:**

Craig Nelson reported that he handed the Rates and Charges proposal over to the Okanogan County Commissioners and that Lanie Johns will take over to make sure a hearing will take place. Craig announced that Chelsea Trout was hired as the new Conservation Educator, replacing Kirstie Bickford. Chelsea began work on September 2, 2016 and will work on a part time basis until she is finished with her internship later on this year.

Craig informed that he inadvertently deleted all of the District's GIS files last week. He has been working with Andrew Phay from Whatcom Conservation District to recover the files. The backup system showed that it was running, but it was not running the backups. Craig reported that he has had discussions with the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSSC) regarding hazard trees and how they fit in with the Fire Recovery grant funds. He has asked that Fire Recovery committee discuss cost share policy in regards to hazard trees. Craig announced

that the conservation planner training is nearing an end, with some plans that are due tomorrow and the rest are due next week. He added that the deadline is very tight for all of the planners.

Kim Simpson reported that the Enduris monthly planners are available to all staff and employees and to let her know if anyone would like one. She will order them next week.

Kirsten Cook reported that the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Methow Valley Home tour was a success, highlighting Firewise homes, fire adapted building and landscaping. It was well attended and the Wenatchee World published a great article on the tour.

Terri Williams reported that she contacted Carlene Anders, Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group about assistance with small fire recovery projects, where the landowner does not have the ability to pay for projects in advance. She informed that there are four to five larger scale culvert projects that she hopes the Community Foundation of North Central Washington will be able to assist with.

### **Contracts & Conservation Plans:**

**WSCC Firewise Grant #16-19-FW Addendum** – This grant is for \$50,000 and would provide Firewise technical assistance, education and outreach, and cost share for home hardening. Steve Colvin moved to approve the Firewise Grant #16-19-FW Addendum. Ivan Oberg seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Peach Foundation Grant** – The Peach Foundation grant is from the Conservation NW in the amount of \$14,250 and will provide wildlife conservation plans for five to seven private landowners to help them restore their lands for native wildlife and sustainable ranching. Ivan Oberg moved to approve the Peach Foundation Grant contract. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**EWP Cost Share Contracts** – The Emergency Watershed Protection contract is for an estimated \$7,000 to rebuild the Super – Long dike that blew out and to restore the channel. Ivan Oberg moved to approve the signing of the EWP cost share contract for the rebuild of the Super – Long dike and restoration of the channel. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Acord Pipeline Cost Share Agreement** – Bob Clark informed that they are still waiting for a description and cost estimate for the 8-inch pipe installation. He asked to have approval for a signature on the cost share agreement, once the cost estimate has come in. Albert Roberts moved to give authority to sign the Acord Pipeline cost share agreement, once the cost estimate has come in, up to the amount granted by the WSCC. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Albert Roberts Cost Share Appeal** – Mindy Widell described a fire recovery project for Albert Roberts on Halely Creek. The project is for \$5,625.00 and includes a relocation of the damaged irrigation system and improvements. Steve Colvin moved to approve the cost share appeal and

staff recommendations to upgrade and move the site of irrigation for Albert Roberts fire recovery project on Haley Creek. Ivan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Albert Roberts abstained.

### **Agency Reports**

**Natural Resources Conservation Services, Stan Janowicz** – Stan reported that although national swept all of their funds last Friday, NRCS staff was able to obligate all FY16 money of close to \$4.5 million, prior to the sweep. Stan informed that the deadline for first round of application for EQIP is November 18, 2016 and if you do not have your application in by December, you will be moved back to the next funding pot. Landowners will not be rolled over so they will need to re-apply. Stan reported that Local Work Group meetings do not need to be held in the fall, and NRCS would like feedback on when the meetings should be scheduled. Craig Nelson commented that mid to late January would most likely be best. Stan announced that NRCS has hired Brendan Dilloughery, a student trainee from Los Angeles who has a background in geology.

**WA Department of Fish & Wildlife, Dale Swedberg** – Dale announced he will be retiring on October 31, 2016. His retirement party will be held on October 8, 2016 at 1:30 PM. He also reported that Sherry Furnari has resigned and moved back to Florida, so they are down a manager in the Methow Valley and are going through the interview process.

**Public Report** – There were no public comments.

### **Old Business**

**Fire Recovery Cost Share Process** – Kim Kogler presented her Fire Recovery Forestry Program, which can include a variety of forestry practices from cost share for plantings to slashing and cuttings, including hazard trees. Kim is working on getting cost estimates from NRCS and the engineer and has contacted pretty much everyone on the list. She stated that around ten projects could start soon. Steve Colvin moved to give Kim Kogler authorization to move forward with the plan. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Washington Conservation Society (WCS) Membership** – The benefits of the Okanogan Conservation District becoming a member of the WCS were discussed. Steve Colvin moved to pay membership dues in the amount of \$150.00 to the WCS. Albert Robert seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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

### **New Business**

**Historical Photo Donation to Okanogan borderlands Historical Society** – Ivan Oberg reported that the Okanogan Borderlands Historical Society plans to have an intern to man the office next year. They will be working on a data base and Ivan proposed to let them digitalize,

organize and archive the old NRCS and Okanogan Conservation District photos that he has been working on. Ivan Oberg moved to allow the Okanogan Borderlands Historical Society to copy, organize and archive the NRCS and OCD photos. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**NCW Area Meeting** – The North Central Washington Area Meeting will be held on October 18, 2016 at the NCW Fairgrounds Community Hall in Waterville, WA. It was decided that Lorah Super, Albert Roberts, Steve Colvin, Craig Nelson and one other staff would attend. Albert Roberts moved to approve attendance of three supervisors and two staff to the NCW Area Meeting in Waterville at \$15.00 per person. Ivan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**WACD Resolutions** – The board and staff discussed possible WACD resolutions. The board was then reminded that there was one month left to come up with any resolutions.

**Employee Training Policy** – The draft employee training policy was discussed and it was decided to table decision on the policy until next board meeting, so the board could get input from staff and get a rounded policy.

**Special Training Agreement** – Last year Leslie Michel requested assistance with the funding cost of a Masters in Soil Science and the board asked that an agreement be developed. The agreement allows for reimbursement to Leslie for up to 75% of gross tuition, lab, course and material fees, up to \$7,500 per year. Albert Roberts moved to approve the Special Training Agreement for Leslie Michel. Ivan Oberg seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Other New Business** – Staff reported that fair passes are needed for the fair next week. Ivan Oberg moved to approve purchase of fair passes in the amount of \$155.00. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session** – The Board went into Executive Session to discuss an employee evaluation at 8:05 PM for 20 minutes. The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:25 PM.

Albert Roberts moved to accept Stacie Powers employee evaluation and in that response approve a raise of \$1.50 per hour and allow use of vacation and sick leave, effective September 1, 2016. Ivan Oberg seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM.

### **Summary of Motions**

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

Albert Roberts moved to allow Lorah Super to be a temporary Chair for the board meeting. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg moved to approve the August 2016 regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #760 as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve the Firewise Grant #16-19-FW Addendum. Ivan Oberg seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg moved to approve the Peach Foundation Grant contract. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg moved to approve the signing of the EWP cost share contract for the rebuild of the Super – Long dike and restoration of the channel. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to give authority to sign the Acord Pipeline cost share agreement once the cost estimate has come in, up to the amount granted by the WSCC. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve the cost share appeal and staff recommendations to upgrade and move the site of irrigation for Albert Roberts fire recovery project on Haley Creek. Ivan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Albert Roberts abstained.

Steve Colvin moved to give Kim Kogler authorization to move forward with the plan. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to pay membership dues in the amount of \$150.00 to the WCS. Albert Robert seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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Albert Roberts moved to approve attendance of three supervisors and two staff to the NCW Area Meeting in Waterville at \$15.00 per person. Ivan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the Special Training Agreement for Leslie Michel. Ivan Oberg seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg moved to approve purchase of fair passes in the amount of \$155.00. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to accept Stacie Powers employee evaluation and in that response approve a raise of \$1.50 per hour and allow use of vacation and sick leave effective September 1, 2016. Ivan Oberg seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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Ivan Oberg  
Chair

Date

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Kim Simpson  
District Treasurer

Date