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**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** November 3, 2011 Board of Supervisors Meeting  
**LOCATION:** USDA Service Center, Okanogan, WA  
**FROM:** Laura Clark, Administrative Program Coordinator

**PRESENT:**

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair
Albert Roberts, District Auditor	Wes Hover, Member
Lorah Super, Member	Ralph Longanecker, Assoc. Supervisor
Gerri Oberg, Assoc. Supervisor	Craig Nelson, District Manager
Bob Clark, Tech. Prog. Coordinator	Laura Clark, Admin. Prog. Coord.
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	Kelly Kolrud, Conservation Planner
Will Keller, NRCS	

**Regular Meeting Call To Order:** Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

**Agenda:** The agenda was presented. Albert Roberts made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Wes Hover seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ivan Oberg asked for comments on the **October 6, 2011 minutes**. Albert Roberts made a motion to approve the October 6, 2011 minutes as written. Wes Hover seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

**Treasurer's Report #702**, which covers the checking account activity for October 7, 2011 to November 3, 2011, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment:

Payroll direct withdrawals; on 10-19-11 totaling \$8,424.57,  
Payroll direct withdrawals; on 10-20-11 totaling \$175.39,  
Payroll direct withdrawals; on 11-3-11 totaling \$8,675.00,  
Voucher (check) numbers; 9462 to 9480 totaling \$115,380.37,  
Direct withdrawals on 10-14-11 totaling \$3,143.09, on 10-18-11 totaling \$11.31, on 10-19-11 totaling \$4.58, on 10-21-11 totaling \$195.00, on 10-24-11 totaling \$28.94, on 10-24-11 totaling \$241.83, on 10-24-11 totaling \$216.58, on 10-24-11 totaling \$1.85, on 10-24-11 totaling \$93.88, on 10-24-11 totaling \$128.73, on 10-25-11 totaling \$2,660.04, on 10-28-11 totaling \$130.38, on 10-28-11 totaling \$947.34, on 10-28-11 totaling \$1,491.29, on 10-24-11 totaling \$303.74, and on 11-2-11 totaling \$11.31, and deposits totaling \$185,423.23. Albert Roberts made a motion to

approve Treasurer's Report #702 as written. Wes Hover seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

**Supervisor Reports:** Wes Hover stated he is trying to get all of his **hay** shipped out before the North Cascades Pass closes. He is interested in the **Save Water Save Energy** program, but now needs the Okanogan Electric Cooperative to sign onto the program before he can participate.

Albert Roberts said he was able to get all of his **cattle** back in and that the current meat prices are good. He is presently working on an **Environmental Quality Incentive Program** project on his place which includes forest thinning and silvopasture. The **silvopasture** project is the first of its kind in the state. The Slow Food **Okanogan Harvest** is scheduled for 5:00 pm, November 19, 2011 at the Riverside Grange.

Ivan Oberg advised he attended the **Legislative meeting** with the area legislators. Unfortunately, only one could make it, Bob Morton, as the others were either sick or had other engagements.

Jerry Asmussen indicated that the **snow** ended up turning his straw trucks around.

Lorah Super stated that she drove through **slush** on Loup Loup Pass on her way here. She has been doing pretty well with her **produce sales** this year.

**Associate Supervisor Reports:** Ralph Longanecker was happy to announce that the **Tonasket FFA Parliamentary Procedure team** took second place in national competition this year. The **tree fruit harvest** is now winding down, but there was an obvious shortage of workers this year. The presence of **Canadian tree fruit** in the U.S. is shrinking. He toured the Sinlahekin Wildlife Refuge and was interested to hear that ceanothus needed to be propagated with fire. He said that the removal of fire from the equation reduced the propagation of the ceanothus, which in turn may be why we are seeing the dwindling populations of mule deer. Ralph is still concerned over the fact that the Hispanic population is not aware enough of the **available programs** to assist their agricultural efforts. Ralph will add more effort to increase the awareness. The **Bonaparte Creek** process to annex the lower stream property into the city in order to extend the water and sewer to those properties is moving forward.

**District Manager's Report:** Craig Nelson advised the WA Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) invited all conservation districts to meet with them on November 1, 2011 to discuss the **memorandum of agreement with Ecology** to address water quality complaints and other items. Thirty conservation districts attended and they were able to address all the issues various districts had with that agreement. Not all the language was addressed, but that will be handled by the WACD task committee. Everyone felt that an MOA was needed, but it was discussed that maybe one agreement for everyone may not work. The task committee will address that too. The governor has proposed **budget cuts**. Craig reviewed the impact the budget cuts would have on our funding and programs and determined it would reduce things, but the work can continue. There was a meeting regarding the **Voluntary Stewardship Program**

conducted by the County Commissioners. A committee was formed and they will address the decision on whether or not to handle the Stewardship Program issues within the county or let the regular GMA provisions dictate decision made by the county. The WACD Area Meeting was held and all four of our **resolutions** were passed. Craig will be leaving on **vacation** on Friday and will not be reachable until the following Sunday. He will return to communication at that point, but will not return to work until November 18, 2011.

Kim Simpson advised that our Certificate of Deposit has now matured. She gave options regarding renewing the CD or alternative methods of investment. Albert Roberts made a motion to move the **District's CD funds** to a savings if the State Auditor said it was okay. Otherwise we will leave it in the CD. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bob Clark indicated that he is still working out the details for the **Colville Confederated Tribe fish screen contract**.

### Contracts & Conservation Plans

Jerry Asmussen made a motion to approve the contract with the WACD for \$10,000 to host the 2012 Washington State **Envirothon** event. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

### Agency Reports:

**Natural Resources Conservation Service:** Will Keller advised the **Environmental Quality Incentive Program** signup deadline is December 4, 2011. The **2013 Farm Bill** should be completed soon. It will focus on three programs: working lands, easements, and stewardship. They are estimated the **FY 2013 federal budget** will include a 5-8% reduction. There will be a **federal energy program** similar to the program the Bonneville Power Administration has and it has a signup deadline of February 13, 2012, then another in March and again in June. The **Society for Range Management** annual meeting will be held in Spokane January 29 to February 3, 2012. Tom Platt has put together a rancher forum and it will also include many symposiums, a trade show, and other activities. The **Agricultural Water Enhancement Program** has projects that are installing 13 pivots in the Methow Valley.

### Old Business

There was another discussion regarding serving **cooperators within city limits** that are not annexed into the District. The decision was made to make the initial site visit in order to determine if we can assist with the project. If we can assist, then the landowner needs to go to the city and seek their annexation into the District. They would also attend a Board meeting and request assistance.

Jerry Asmussen made a motion to approve our expenditure of costs on per diem for the **WACD Annual Meeting** that exceeds the per diem rates. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion was passed. Final determination was made on attendees for this meeting.

Lorah Super made a motion to approve the **Rangeland Conservation Pilot Project** with the NRCS for \$7,500 with a \$2,500 match requirement and ending on December 31, 2012. Wes Hover seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

The group took a **break** from 5:50 PM to 6:00 PM

### **Task List**

#9 – **Forest Plan** – Comments were submitted. Lorah Super will track this plan and keep the Board updated.

Two **grant applications** were submitted to Department of Ecology: 1) Okanogan Livestock and Water Quality, and 2) Okanogan – Methow Farm Conservation Assistance.

**Public Comments:** No public comments were given.

### **New Business**

Albert Roberts made a motion to approve the **2012 Annual Budget** with the ability to modify it according to funding changes. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Jerry Asmussen made a motion to appoint Laura Clark as the Election Supervisor with full authority for the **2012 District Elections**. Wes Hover seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

The Board determined that we would not schedule an annual **Cooperator Appreciation Banquet** at this time due to budget constraints. However, if a need arose we will readdress the possibility at that time.

Craig Nelson explained the need to replace two of our **computers**. He is still researching expenses to determine costs and how to fund them, which he will report back to the Board later.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 6:40 PM.

### **Summary of Motions**

Albert Roberts made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Wes Hover seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Albert Roberts made a motion to approve the October 6, 2011 minutes as written. Wes Hover seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Albert Roberts made a motion to approve Treasurer's Report #702 as written. Wes Hover seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

**Summary of Motions (continued)**

Albert Roberts made a motion to move the District's CD funds to a savings if the State Auditor said it was okay. Otherwise we will leave it in the CD. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Jerry Asmussen made a motion to approve the contract with the WACD for \$10,000 to host the 2012 Washington State Envirothon event. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

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Ivan Oberg, Chair

Date

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Laura Clark, Admin. Prog. Coord.

Date