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TO: The Record
SUBJECT: September 1, 2011 Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: USDA Service Center, Okanogan, WA
FROM: Laura Clark, Administrative Program Coordinator
Kimberly Simpson, District Treasurer

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair
Albert Roberts, District Auditor	Wes Hover, 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	Christy Cincotta, Cons. Planner
Randy Kelly, NRCS	

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

Agenda: The agenda was presented. Add: Whitestone Reclamation District agreement to the contracts section; Rangeland and Ecology grant applications to Old Business; and WACD Resolutions to New Business. Jerry Asmussen made a motion to approve the agenda as changed. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Approval of Minutes: Ivan Oberg asked for comments on the **August 4, 2011 minutes**. Albert Roberts made a motion to approve the August 4, 2011 minutes as written. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report #700, which covers the checking account activity for August 5, 2011 to September 1, 2011, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment:
Payroll direct withdrawals; on 8-18-11 totaling \$9,382.75,
Payroll direct withdrawals; on 9-1-11 totaling \$9,848.24,
Voucher (check) numbers; 9435 to 9445 totaling \$15,017.92,
Direct withdrawals on 8-8-11 totaling \$3,044.68, on 8-17-11 totaling \$12.65, on 8-19-11 totaling \$245.00, on 8-23-11 totaling \$2,926.65, on 8-26-11 totaling \$205.72, on 8-26-11 totaling \$210.15, on 8-26-11 totaling \$34.84, on 8-26-11 totaling \$173.33, on 8-26-11 totaling \$38.50, on 8-30-11 totaling \$154.86, and on 9-1-11 totaling \$12.65, and deposits totaling \$47,620.17. Jerry

Asmussen made a motion to approve Treasurer's Report #700 as written. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Supervisor Reports: Albert Roberts stated that his **third cutting** looks good. There was a **fire** near his farm last night which burned part of his alfalfa field. Since crews were already on the scene of the Salmon Fire, water dumping planes were close by and able to quickly extinguish the resulting two acre fire. Many thanks to the **Mount Tolman Fire District** and other fire fighting groups there for their quick response!

Jerry Asmussen said they had a bit of rain over the past two days, but it was only enough to wet the ground. The **Bonaparte Creek** water level is still dropping quickly.

Ivan Oberg passed around a flyer on the **Eastern Washington Forest Health class** being conducted in Tonasket and Mazama by the Washington State University Extension Office. They are hoping to get a US Department of Agriculture **certified meat processing** center in Odessa.

Wes Hover also indicated his **third cutting** is looking good with all the rain they have received. The **Barnsly Lake** has become more of a wetland since the irrigation ditch was piped. A well will be installed to be used to refill the lake.

Associate Supervisor Reports: Ralph Longanecker advised the orchards are now in their **pear harvest** and that crop is looking good. Ralph attended the **City of Tonasket** meeting regarding annexing the city into the conservation district. **Senator Morton** talked to the Tonasket Kiwanis about water issues and creating farm work teams to assist various farms. The talk was very good and Ralph thought we may want to invite him to come speak at one of our District meetings.

District Manager's Report: Craig Nelson will arrive late to the meeting and asked Bob Clark to speak on the Manager and Staff reports. Laura Clark advised the Board that Department of Natural Resources is working on creating contracts with specific conservation districts to conduct **Firewise** activities. In furtherance of those activities, Laura was on her way to the Salmon Fire meeting tonight.

Jerry Asmussen indicated there was a court case regarding the RCW 90.82 **Watershed Planning Process** where it was decided that the Department of Ecology did have the authority to approve a watershed plan. Bob Clark will draft a response letter to Greg Shuler at Ecology regarding their comments on the Okanogan Watershed Plan.

There was an email to the Board regarding a **survey from Ecology** "What is wrong with water law and how would I fix it?" Comments will be submitted on behalf of the Okanogan Watershed Planning Unit. The District will not be submitting comments at this time.

Contracts & Conservation Plans

Albert Roberts made a motion to approve the contract amendment for **Backyard** to modify the language to include a debarment statement. Wes Hover seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Albert Roberts made a motion to approve the **Bonneville Power Administration** contract for \$134,620 to install 14 upgraded screens on irrigation diversions in the mainstem Okanogan River by September 2012. Wes Hover seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Wes Hover made a motion to authorize the Board Chair, Ivan Oberg, to sign the **Colville Confederated Tribes** contract for \$70,000 to install upgraded screens on irrigation diversions in the mainstem Okanogan River when it became available. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Jerry Asmussen made a motion to provide preliminary approval for the interlocal agreement with **Whitestone Reclamation District**, to administer a grant for energy efficiencies with a \$140,000 cost share match from the Okanogan Public Utility District, with the stipulation that Whitestone only makes minor changes to the agreement and not substantial changes. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Agency Reports:

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Randy Kelley reported the NRCS is in good shape regarding their **budget** as it is about the same amount as last year. The **2012 Farm Bill** is in the process of being developed. They are discussing combining the **cost share process** amongst the various programs into one program. There is a **Conservation Streamline Initiative** to get the staff back into the field more often. This will replace their customer tool kit. They are in the process of their annual planning and may have **Task Order** needs. Also if the conservation district will need their staff for technical assistance, we should advise them of that need now during their planning process. The **Biomass Crop Assistance Program** application period ends September 16, 2011.

Old Business

The new **cost share ranking** process was discussed and will be reviewed further by the Board. The Board will appoint a cost share ranking committee.

Task List

#8 – **Oroville/Chesaw grade project** – Spoke with Mark Peterschmidt from Ecology and there is no other source that can be matched with their funding. We will continue seeking funding, but it is unclear if there will be any available.

#9 – **US Forest Plan** – Albert and Jerry are aware of the deadline for input.

#11 – **Cost Share Ranking** – This task can come off the list as it is currently being handled.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts Resolutions – No one has any resolutions this year. The WACD Area Meeting is on October 25, 2011 in Ritzville.

Public Comments: No public comments were given.

New Business

Christy Cincotta is moving and therefore leaving this **conservation planner position** open. After discussions, it was decided we would try to handle her workload between the existing staff for now and see if we will need to fill that position.

Rangeland Planning – NRCS and the Washington State Conservation Commission have asked 3 conservation districts, which includes our district, to perform a pilot project. The pilot project is to develop conservation plans for producers which include rangeland management with a Coordinated Resource Management component. NRCS is providing \$50,000 for the project. Before we can agree to the pilot project, we will need more details in order to clarify the objectives and timeline.

Okanogan County Fair Booth – Wes Hover indicated he can work on Friday from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Albert Roberts indicated we can schedule him for Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

The Board directed the staff to submit at least two **grant applications to Department of Ecology** for this open application period. The staff will combine the livestock and water quality projects into one application. Another application will be submitted for irrigation water management and integrated pest management. There was some discussion on targeting a specific watershed for grant application consideration.

The Board went into **executive session** at 8:10 PM for ten minutes to discuss a personnel evaluation. The Board came out of executive session at 8:20 PM.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Summary of Motions

Jerry Asmussen made a motion to approve the agenda as changed. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

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