



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: February 2, 2023; Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogan Conservation District Office, Okanogan, WA and
Remotely via Microsoft Teams and Teleconference
FROM: Cassandra Lange, Administrative Assistant

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, District Chair	Chevelle Yeckel, Water Quality & Riparian Planner
Albert Roberts, District Auditor (Phone)	Aaron Wold, Range Planner Lead
Bob Clark, Associate Supervisor (Phone)	Dylan Streeter, Wildfire Resiliency & Recovery Planner
Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor	Eli Loftis, Wildfire & Community Resilience Lead
Dale Swedberg, Associate Supervisor (Phone)	Emmy Engle, Communication & Outreach Specialist
Steve Colvin, Member	Jordana Ellis, Irrigation Planner
Lorah Super, Member	Cassandra Lange, Administrative Assistant
Craig Nelson, Executive Director	Edd Townsend, Public
Becky Drenner, Finance Director	Celeste Accord, NRCS
Kim Kogler, Grants & Contracts Director	

Meeting Call to Order: Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Ivan completed a roll call of Supervisors, Associate Supervisors, staff, partners, and the public.

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

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: Steve Colvin moved to approve the January 5, 2023 board meeting minutes as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #837, which covers the checking account activity from January 6, 2023 to February 2, 2023, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval, the following checks/payroll/direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 12089 – 12097 totaling \$19,486.68.

Two payroll direct withdrawals – numbers ACH4410 – ACH4431 - totaling \$41,744.41.

Electronic payments – numbers EFT3150– EFT3168 totaling \$46,273.63.

A transfer from Checking to Savings in the amount of \$50,000.00

Deposits totaling \$241,036.01 were made.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #837 as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Albert Roberts – Albert reported that he was relaxing in 90-degree weather.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan did not give a report.

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry was not present.

Steve Colvin – Steve reported that the snow had melted quite a bit.

Lorah Super – Lorah reported that she was voted onto the Methow Watershed Council. Lorah added that it would be a good idea to increase public awareness of the districts water bank program.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

Dale reported that he gave a presentation regarding prescribed fire in Leavenworth, and attendees expressed appreciation on what they had learned during the presentation.

Bob reported that he had been taking care of his wife who recently had surgery.

Randy reported that he has been planning the 2023 Conservation Celebration.

Staff Reports:

Craig reported that Klyn Carr, the new Education Specialist, started earlier in the week. Craig went on to say that Legislative Day is Wednesday the 8th, and he will be meeting with 7th District members to discuss budgets, supervisor elections, and riparian habitat restoration. Craig added that Jordana has been doing a great job on the Irrigation Efficiencies program as well as working with the Chewuch Canal Company on their project. Craig noted that Barkley Irrigation Company has a consumptive-use water right that they are interested in selling to the districts water bank.

Becky reported that there are cost-share payments being reimbursed by the commission and added that it is very nice to be able to reimburse the cooperator quickly with the reserve in the savings account. Becky noted that she handed out a few candidate information forms earlier in the day, and they need to be by February 10th at three o'clock to be on the ballot. Becky went on to say that Kim is doing an excellent job navigating her new role within the district.

Jordana reported that the advertising that Emmy did for the WSDA grant is proving fruitful as she has had cooperators reach out after seeing the advertisement.

Kim reported that she is happy that Klyn, the new Education Specialist, has started and she was able to introduce him to the grants he will oversee. Kim added that she is attending NACD Annual Conference in the coming weeks and will be hosting a presentation on Garden Education.

Eli reported that he has been working on the FEMA grant contract. Eli added they have ten months to do phase one of the project. Eli noted that the district is still waiting to hear about the CWDG grant. Eli thanked Dylan and Emmy on their work on the DNR FAC Pilot Project.

NRCS Report

Celeste Accord was present and reported that they have been working on EQUIP rankings. Celeste noted that the new Wenatchee resource conservationist started last month.

Partner Reports

No partners were present.

Review, Approve and Sign Contracts and Conservation Plans

City of Okanogan SSOW Spring Chipping Event– Eli reported that the district is working with the City of Okanogan Public Works to plan two spring chipping events for Okanogan residents. The March event will take place on Tuesday March 21st, the 2nd event planned for May has no set date yet. The labor, equipment, and staff will be provided by the City of Okanogan and the district will handle sign ups, outreach, and compensation to the city for staff time and equipment costs for the days. As the city is currently adjusting their rates for equipment operation, a specific cost for the projects is not known. The previous event was budgeted at \$1,540.00, and the expected budget for spring events would be roughly double that amount, to reflect the two events and incremental increases in the hourly rate paid to City of Okanogan Public Works. Lorah Super moved to approve Craig Nelson to sign the supplemental statement of work with the City of Okanogan once the SSOW is ready to be signed. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Carrol Personal Service Contract Extension – Eli reported that there were unforeseen issues with the DNR FAC Pilot Project data transfer that will delay Dr. Carroll from completing the analysis by the original contract expiration date of February 28th, 2023. Eli added that the new proposed deadline is April 30th, 2023. Albert Roberts moved to approve Ivan Oberg to sign the Carrol personal services contract extension. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Amendment to Ecology Livestock BMPs Contract – Aaron reported that the WQC-2020-OkanCD-00195 (Livestock BMPs) agreement with the Department of Ecology was set to expire on November 30th, 2022. The district requested a 12-month extension, and it was approved by the Department of Ecology and Aaron asked the board to sign the amendment. Albert Roberts moved to approve Ivan Oberg to sign the Livestock BMPs amendment. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Water Bank Update – Craig reported that the district is still waiting for the contract from the Department of Ecology, and Vanessa Brinkhuis is the new contract manager. Craig added that the Department of Ecology is trying to negotiate how escrow will work with the purchase of a water right.

CCC Pipeline Project Update – Jordana reported that the district received the letter of interest from the Chewuch Canal Company for the pipeline project. Jordana added that Lance Horning is working on the concept design that will give an estimated project budget, and Lance said that a design of the full project could take eight to ten months, which would push the timeline of starting the project until next year.

New Business:

Conservation Celebration – Randy reported that he had met with Emmy, Cassandra, Craig, and Eli earlier in the day and went over different planning aspects including the facility, food caterer, awards, and invitations for the Conservation Celebration. Randy recommended using the Okanogan County Fairgrounds Agriplex as the facility this year, and the board agreed that the Agriplex would be the facility. Randy contacted three food vendors in the county, and ultimately the board decided that the Conservation Celebration committee could choose the best option once finalized quotes came in. Randy asked the board to choose between some preselected Conservation Celebration keynote speakers. Board members discussed the options and left the decision up to the committee. Emmy added that it would be nice if the board members held a panel, and each did a five-minute presentation to get an insight on the past years' projects and accomplishments in-between each award to help keep the audience engaged.

Office Space Change – Craig reported that the USDA office space contract was undergoing negotiations as it was set to expire in the spring. Craig asked Sarah Troutman if she would be interested in switching the NRCS office space with the Conservation District office space, as that would put the two USDA agencies in the same wing of the building and help the Conservation District consolidate space. Craig reported that Sarah was agreeable to switching office spaces and was working with the contract negotiations on her end to see if it would be possible. This topic will be revisited at the next board meeting.

Annual Review of RCW 89.08 – Craig informed that the Washington State Conservation Commission recommends conservation district board members review RCS 89.08 (Conservation District Act) on at least an annual basis. This review is to ensure that elected officials and others in decision making positions are familiar with district authorities in enabling legislation. A review of the RCW took place and there were no questions.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Summary of Motions

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

Steve Colvin moved to approve the January 5, 2023 board meeting minutes as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #837 as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve Craig Nelson to sign the supplemental statement of work with the City of Okanogan once the SSOW is ready to be signed. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Ivan Oberg to sign the Carrol personal services contract extension. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Ivan Oberg to sign the Livestock BMPs amendment. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg vice chair

Ivan Oberg
Chair

Date

Becky Drenner 3/2/23

Becky Drenner
Finance Director

Date