



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: February 1, 2022; Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogan Conservation District Office, Okanogan, WA and
Remotely via Microsoft Teams
FROM: Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, District Chair – Present
Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair – Phone
Albert Roberts, District Auditor – Phone
Lorah Super – Member – Phone
Steve Colvin, Member – Phone
Gerri Oberg, Member – Present
Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor – Present
Bob Clark, Associate Supervisor – Phone
Dale Swedberg, Associate Supervisor – Phone

Craig Nelson, Executive Director – Present
Becky Drenner, Finance Director – Present
Amy Martin, Conservation Director – Phone
Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant – Phone
Aaron Wold, Range Planner Lead – Phone
Kim Kogler, Education Specialist – Phone
Ricardo Angel, Natural Resource Technician – Phone
Rena Shawver, Marketing & Comm. Specialist – Phone

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.

Approval of Minutes: Steve Colvin moved to approve the January 4, 2022, board meeting minutes as presented. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #825, which covers the checking account activity from January 5, 2022, to February 1, 2022, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval, the following checks/payroll direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 11867– 11884 totaling \$30,746.24.

One payroll direct withdrawal – numbers ACH4164 – ACH4172 totaling \$13,876.66.

Electronic payments – numbers EFT2976 – EFT2989 totaling \$24,959.32.

Deposits totaling \$75,033.74 were made.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #825. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Albert Roberts – Albert reported finding capable hay feeders and is enjoying his vacation.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan had nothing to report.

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry reported that he is out feeding cows though not calving yet. Stated the snow is awful dry, according to the snow report. Jerry was wondering what the impact of the fire deferment for DNR, Forester Service, and CCT would be for the upcoming year; Craig asked Aaron to look into that.

Lorah Super – Lorah extended well wishes to Steve as he recovers. Lorah went on to report that after all the snow suddenly everything has turned to ice. While she is hoping for more snow, she is looking forward to spring. She reported the Methow Watershed Council discussed the water bank, and their possible involvement, at the last meeting of January 20th. Lorah informed she was able to answer a lot of the member's questions satisfactorily. She concluded by saying that the North Central WA Forest Collaborative meeting is tomorrow, is open to the public, and to give her a call if anyone is interested in attending.

Steve Colvin – Steve thanked to Becky and Randy for the card and the notes of encouragement because it has been a horrible six weeks, having overdone it during the initial healing period post-surgery. Otherwise, he had nothing more to report other than looking toward a beautiful spring with some new things at the winery.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

Randy reported he is continuing his work on the Conservation Celebration and constructing pollinator habitat and bee nests to help with the district's presence at the Horticulture Show.

Bob reported he is on vacation. He finally broke down and bought an electric snow blower.

Dale reported he inherited a farm in Ellensburg, which he has been updating and will be a lot of work.

Staff Report:

Craig reported Chevelle Yeckel started today. The position vacated by Mindy will have an interview on Thursday and another one on Friday. These positions are open until filled.

Amy reported that the commission opened another \$20,000 for natural resource investment projects. She, Ricardo, Aaron, and Craig, have brainstormed projects. FEMA responded about a hazard mitigation grant that staff had applied to a year ago. One major holdup that may exclude the district from receiving nearly \$700,000.00 is that the county does not have an updated hazard mitigation plan. Lorah recalled that Maurice had been trying to put a plan together; Albert confirmed he recalled the same thing. Amy will call Maurice tomorrow and Albert suggested calling Pete Palmer. The other limitation Amy reported is that area homes might not be quite valuable enough to implement practices, though a cost-benefit analysis will be important. Craig received a text from Maurice that the county had submitted an All Hazard Plan to the state, who in turn submitted it to FEMA. The state is waiting on a meeting to review feedback from FEMA.

Becky reported Steve turned in his candidate form. There will be two other election officers for election day, Tim White, who helped last year, and Terri Williams volunteered her cousin, who is happy to help. This Friday is the deadline for candidate filing. Lorah said she will start the process of filing before the deadline of March 1st.

Aaron reported information for an NRI project for a virtual fence up the Tunk. The project involves purchasing towers to keep cattle within virtual fence at Wilson's Cattle Company. They own 8,000 acres and will need 2 or 3 towers (\$2,000 each). It is \$35/year to rent collars. The initial project cost will be around \$3,700.

Kim reported that staff applied for the NACD UAC Implementation Grant. The grant will provide funds to provide teacher support and implement outreach to encourage garden support. The district also received approval for a presentation at the National Children and Youth Garden Symposium.

Review, Approve and Sign Contracts and Conservation Plans

None this month.

NRCS Report

Snow survey has been sent out, and while there is a lot of snow depth, there is not a lot of water associated with it.

Partner Reports

No partners were present.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Old Business:

Water Bank Update – Craig reported nothing new because he struggled to keep up after vacation, getting sick, and hiring a new employee. He assured there would be more to report next month.

Conservation Celebration 2022 – Randy reported he included notes clarifying and confirming costs of caterers to ensure a \$25 ticket price. Becky, Amy, and Craig reviewed the options provided by Randy and chose the Berg Pavilion at the fairgrounds in May. The hope is that it will be quieter and provide shelter in case of inclement weather. There are two options for presentation, including inviting guest speakers or a present a district program overview. Lorah informed she would put thought into a speaker. Jerry suggested avoiding the week of FFA competitions. Craig requested that the board think of award nominations and send ideas to Randy or himself.

New Business:

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. Albert asked about 89.08.405, Rates & Charges ending on December 31, 2021 and wondered how that impacted the district. Craig guessed there was a tweak to the section, which goes into effect January 1, 2022, but will check with Mike Baden.

Natural Resource Technician Position – Craig informed that with changes in staffing the district is currently without a Natural Resource Technician. There are many projects already in progress with additional projects coming online where a technician would be the most appropriate person to complete many of the tasks. The district currently has more work than current and onboarding staff can implement. Adding a Natural Resource Technician as soon as possible is paramount to keeping implementation of projects moving forward. Albert Roberts moved to authorize Craig Nelson to hire a Natural Resource Technician. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Rates and Charges Fee Schedule – Craig reported that to increase rates and charges, staff will need to do a rates study. The group that did it a few years ago was willing to do it for \$1,400. This is not cheap, but the district has struggled to make ends meet with rates and charges as it is currently. The district finished last year with maybe \$20 in the fund. Craig asked the board for approval to enter contract with the group who conducted the study previously, who would then present results to the board. Steve moved to authorize Craig to enter contract with the same group used previously. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Summary of Motions

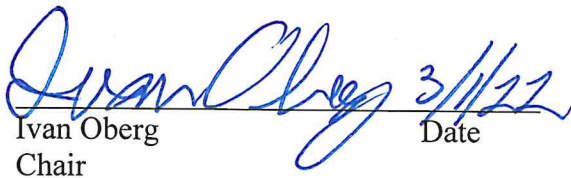
Lorah Super moved to approve the agenda as amended. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

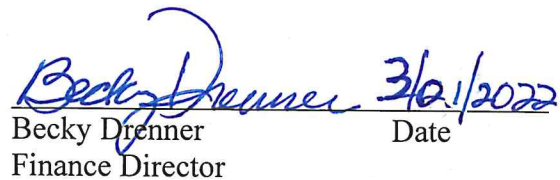
Steve Colvin moved to approve the January 4, 2022, board meeting minutes as presented. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #825. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to authorize Craig Nelson to hire a Natural Resource Technician. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve moved to authorize Craig to enter contract with the same group used previously. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

 3/1/22
Ivan Oberg
Chair Date

 3/1/2022
Becky Drenner
Finance Director Date