



# Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

---

**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** October 4, 2022; Board of Supervisors Meeting  
**LOCATION:** Okanogan Conservation District Office, Okanogan, WA  
**FROM:** Cassandra Lange, Administrative Assistant

**PRESENT:**

Ivan Oberg, District Chair

Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair

Albert Roberts, District Auditor

Lorah Super, Member (Phone)

Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor

Craig Nelson, Executive Director

Becky Drenner, Finance Director

Cassandra Lange, Administrative Assistant

Chevelle Yeckel, Water Quality & Riparian Planner

Kim Kogler, Grants & Contracts Director

Dylan Streeter, Conservation Planner

Eli Loftis, Wildfire & Community Resilience Lead

Emmy Engle, Communication & Outreach Specialist

Celeste Acord, NRCS

**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.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Agenda Approval:** Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the agenda as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the September 6, 2022 board meeting minutes as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #833,** which covers the checking account activity from September 7, 2022 to October 4, 2022, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval, the following checks/payroll direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 12010 - 12021 totaling \$19,878.59.

Two payroll direct withdrawals – numbers ACH4322 – ACH4343 - totaling \$34,682.21.

Electronic payments – numbers EFT3087 – EFT3100 totaling \$27,635.37.

Deposits totaling \$34,731.72 were made.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #833. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Supervisor Reports:**

**Albert Roberts** – Albert reported that the candidate’s forum was later in the week and Albert invited everyone to join. He added that he was almost finished with his third hay cutting.

**Ivan Oberg** – Ivan did not have a report.

**Jerry Asmussen** – Jerry reported that it is still dry in the hills and grasses are getting hard. He has had frost at his level, but only the pumpkins and cucumbers were phased, and the grasshoppers are alive and well despite the frost. He added that people are out riding on the ranges and there is finally enough sugar in the pears to pick them.

**Steve Colvin** – Steve was not present.

**Lorah Super** – Lorah reported that she just returned from fighting the bees from the grapes. Otherwise, she got Covid and is getting through it.

### **Associate Supervisor Reports:**

No Associate Supervisors were present.

### **Staff Reports:**

Craig reported that half of the staff is currently writing a budget for a Community Wildfire Defense Grant and the projected budget is up to 9.5-million-dollars for five years’ worth of fire preparedness and prevention. The District is hoping to get operating equipment from the grant, which would allow them to become more self-sufficient for numerous fire tasks. Jerry asked if the District would crew the equipment or rent it out, and Craig responded that the District would crew it. Eli added that the District will be providing a chipper attachment for the Sun Ranch Club, but other than that the district would have a crew to operate equipment. Jerry then brought up stealing business from local outfitters, and Craig responded that this had been discussed and then reasoned as local businesses do not always have equipment available. Eli is going to submit that grant on Wednesday morning. Craig added that Maurice Goodall had called earlier in the week and asked if the District would be interested in updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, in which Craig responded yes. Craig went on to add that the District completed a Title III application for next year. The District is waiting to hear back on the FEMA Grant that was submitted in the spring of 2021.

Craig went on to report that the District was contacted by Naomi Peasley from the Okanogan County Fairgrounds, who is wanting some coniferous trees to use as shade and wind breaks for the grounds. Craig added that the District would buy the trees and Naomi would have a crew plant them, along with having a sign by the trees stating they were provided by the District. Craig wanted to share that the District’s fair booth attendance was on par with previous years and received great comments from the public.

Becky reported that the District is working on the 2023 budget. Planners have their grant budgets, and she will work with the planners when they are ready. She added that November is a busy month due to quarterly vouchers and taxes.

Eli reported that October would be a busy month due to the chipping events and added that there is a possibility that the District might host an additional chipping event with the Colville Tribe in east Omak in late October as well.

Chevelle acknowledged Randy Kelley's help with training her on micro irrigation.

### **Review, Approve and Sign Contracts and Conservation Plans**

**Office Lease Amendment** – Craig informed the board that the district's office lease expires in May 2023. The building owner representative presented the district with a proposed 5-year lease extension. The lease extension does not change any of the terms of the lease other than expiration date, which is extended out to May 2028 and has a 5% lease increase in each of the first two years, followed by a 2% increase in each of the last three years of the lease. Staff recommended the Board move to approve and authorize Craig Nelson to sign the office lease extension as presented. Albert Roberts moved to approve the motion and authorize Craig Nelson to sign the office lease extension as presented. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Dan Russell Cost Share Amendment** – Aaron informed the board that this project was approved for a 50:50 cost-share contract on 8/3/21. The 50:50 cost-share was the rate designated for upland projects within OCD Operation Manual. The District has two NRI projects, Carter Mountain and Convis that will not be using all their allocated funds. With the motive to keep these NRI dollars within the district and further the support to a cooperator, Aaron requested that \$6,487.24 of NRI dollars be reallocated to the Dan Russell project. The increase would bring his cost share contract to 75:25. Dan has been a very responsive and conservation-minded cooperator and has already implemented his Critical Area Planting and about 45% of his cross-fencing. Aaron requested the board approve the reallocation of NRI funds to Dan Russell's project and give Craig Nelson authorization to sign the amended 75:25 cost share contract. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the reallocation of NRI funds to Dan Russell's project and give Craig Nelson authorization to sign the amended 75:25 cost share contract. Ivan Oberg seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Eric Corbin Darling Lake NRI Project** – Aaron informed that the Eric Corbin/Harkness LLC has 2,400 acres that he leases to a local rancher. There are typically 120 pairs and 6 bulls on the pasture from June until the first snow. There are multiple water sources within the pastures, however, Darling Lake (17 acres), a main source of water for the operation is susceptible to algae blooms that Eric believes are related to the deaths of several cattle. Eric Corbin/Harkness LLC has already installed a windmill that aerates Darling Lake to address the algae blooms, but to address the additional resource concerns he would like to construct an exclusion fence and a watering facility with water supplied from Darling Lake. The watering facility would include a solar pump, livestock pipeline, heavy use area, and two 600-gallon troughs. The wildlife friendly fence would be about 2,000 feet and connect to an existing fence to fully exclude the shoreline from cattle. Aaron requested the Board to approve the use of up to \$15,700.66 of NRI funding for a 75:25 cost-share agreement to help the Eric Corbin/Harkness LLC to implement a watering facility and exclusion fencing project and to authorize Craig to sign the CPDS cost-share contract. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the use of up to \$15,700.66, if made available by the Conservation Commission, of NRI funding for the 75:25 cost-share agreement to help the

Eric Corbin/Harkness LLC to implement a watering facility and exclusion fencing project and authorize Craig Nelson to sign the CPDS cost-share contract. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **NRCS Report**

Sarah Troutman was not present but sent out a report that is included with board documents.

### **Partner Reports**

There were no partners present.

### **Old Business:**

**Water Bank Update** – Craig reported that the Department of Ecology completed their review of the application the District sent in and submitted a request for additional information on pricing of the water rights and further demonstrations on the necessity of water banking. Craig is working on updating answers and will resubmit the application later in the week. Craig added that an irrigation company has a cottonwood water right and they are interested in selling their water right. Craig also reported that he had a conversation with Tom Tebb from the Department of Ecology and Tom is interested in selling a water right.

**WSCC Public Lands Cost-Share Rates** – Current Washington State Conservation Commission Policy restricts maximum cost-share for projects on public lands to 50% total project cost. Districts are required to approve a resolution once per biennium setting their cost-share rates for funding from the Conservation Commission and may choose any rate for projects on private lands. Therefore, a private landowner may implement a project on their private property and receive anywhere from 0-100% cost-share from their CD. However, if the same person has a lease to use public lands and wishes to implement a conservation project on the leased public land (even if it's the same practice) the maximum they can receive from the CD is 50% of the cost. Staff recommends the board move to approve the WACD resolution on Washington State Conservation Commission Cost-Share Rate Policy and forward it to the WACD NC Area Meeting. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the WACD resolution on Washington State Conservation Commission Cost-Share Rate Policy as written and forward it to the WACD NC Area Meeting. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Ecology Water Bank Program Changes** – The Washington State Legislature authorized and funded the Washington Department of Ecology to fund the creation of locally controlled water banks beginning July 1, 2021. The funding for the program is currently set to expire on June 30, 2023. The necessary steps to acquire a water right, have its extent and validity confirmed, and process all of the legal paperwork to transfer the water right into the water bank and state water trust takes well over a year. Extending the life of this program beyond June 30, 2023 is imperative to giving enough time to those who wish to develop this water management tool the necessary time to do so correctly. Furthermore, the program rules limit applicants to a maximum of \$2 million. Water acquisition is expensive and to develop a proper water bank it often takes multiple water rights from different points within a watershed and have varying authorize uses or timing of use. Laura Super moved to approve the Ecology Water Bank Program WACD

Resolution as written. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Pending clarification as we may only raise the cap.

**Ecology Stock Water Policy Changes** – Craig reported that Ecology changed the policy on water right exemption for stock water, which then made it a requirement to have a water right. The proposed resolution language would request the reinstating of the water right exemption for stock water. Albert Roberts moved to approve the Ecology Stock Water Policy Resolution as written. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

There was no new business.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

**Summary of Motions**

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the agenda as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the September 6, 2022 board meeting minutes as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #833. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve and authorize Craig Nelson to sign the office lease extension as presented. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the reallocation of NRI funds to Dan Russell's project and give Craig Nelson authorization to sign the amended 75:25 cost share contract. Ivan Oberg seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the use of up to \$15,700.66 of NRI funding for the 75/25 cost-share agreement to help the Eric Corbin/Harkness LLC to implement a watering facility and exclusion fencing project and authorize Craig Nelson to sign the CPDS cost-share contract. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the WACD resolution on Washington State Conservation Commission Cost-Share Rate Policy as written and forward it to the WACD NC Area Meeting. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the Ecology Water Bank Program WACD Resolution as written. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the Ecology Stock Water Policy Resolution as written. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ivan Oberg", written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the date "11/1/22" is handwritten in blue ink.

Ivan Oberg  
Chair

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Becky Drenner", written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the date "11/1/22" is handwritten in blue ink.

Becky Drenner  
Finance Director

Date