



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: September 8, 2026; Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogan Conservation District Office, Okanogan, WA and
Remotely via Microsoft Teams and Teleconference
FROM: Natalie Torres, Administrative Specialist

PRESENT:

Lorah Super	Natalie Torres, Administrative Specialist
Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair	Eli Loftis, Forests & Wildfire Lead
Steve Colvin, Supervisor	Sam Nurmi, Forests & Wildfire Planner
Phil Dart, Supervisor	Davis Clark, Agriculture Lead
Michelle Martin, Supervisor	Jack Owen, Water Resources Planner
Ivan Oberg, Associate Supervisor	Amber Jackson, ECY
Terri Williams, Associate Supervisor	Scott Scroggie, NRCS
Craig Nelson, Executive Director	Celeste Acord, NRCS
Jordana Ellis, Programs Director	Scott Noble, SCC
Kim Kogler, Operations Director	

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Agenda & Consent Approval:

Consent Agenda

- A. August 2026 Board Meeting Minutes – Kim
- B. July 2026 Board Meeting Minutes Amended – Natalie Torres
- C. Christianson Ranch: Mundy Irrigation Efficiencies Project – Jack Owen
- D. Sample Irrigation Efficiencies Project – Jack Owen
- E. Methow Valley Chipping Events Personal Services Contract – Sam Nurmi
- F. NAAEE Conference – Emily Bustamante
- G. August 2026 Treasurer’s Report #880– Kim

Which covers the checking account activity from August 1, 2026, to August 31, 2026, inclusive. The following checks/payroll/direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

The payroll deposits for this period include two direct deposits: one covering August 1-15, 2026, in the amount of \$34,755.65, and another for August 16-31, 2026, totaling \$35,480.68. The combined total of payroll deposits is \$70,236.23.

Payroll deductions for this period amount to \$42,896.54. The HCA payment check (13226) totaled \$17,748.88. Altogether, the total payroll-related transactions for this period amount to \$130,881.75.

Checks issued during this timeframe include numbers 13227 through 13246. The total claims for checks amount to \$143,133.01. Additionally, EFT debits, general ledger adjustments, and credit card payments total \$5,484.44. The combined total of claims paid or processed is \$148,617.45.

Outstanding expenses remaining total \$163,362.22.

The beginning balance of the checking account was \$385,986.44. During this period, deposits totaling \$224,823.30 were made, and reconciled withdrawals amounted to \$266,434.99. After accounting for all transactions, the ending balance in the checking account is \$344,374.75.

Phil Dart made the motion to approve the Amended Agenda. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Phil Dart seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Partner Reports:

Scott Scroggie – Scott provided updates on coordination between the Conservation District and NRCS, noting that the MOU remains under review and that BAER team activities and emergency assistance opportunities are developing. He also shared that discussions regarding the Task Order are continuing and introduced a DNR Forester serving the Omak and Okanogan area.

Looking ahead, Scott encouraged early applications for upcoming program opportunities, noting an existing backlog and that older applications will be addressed first. He also provided a brief update on agency reorganization and anticipated staffing changes.

Scott also shared general information on wildfire-related EQIP opportunities and potential assistance for fencing, grazing, irrigation, and other resource needs.

Amber Jackson – Amber took a moment to remind those in attendance that the Water Quality Combined Funding Program application deadline is approaching on September 30, 2026.

Scott Noble – Scott shared updates on upcoming communications, including the District Digest and an engagement plan. He also noted upcoming deadlines and meetings, including the photo contest, business meeting, and election training, and reminded attendees to register for the training.

Staff Presentation:

Davis Clark presented an overview of the Agriculture Program to the board, sharing information about current work, initiatives, and future goals.

Staff Reports:

Craig shared that it is Fair Week and that Rosalie has taken the lead while Emmy is on leave. She has prepared a guide for staff to follow, and the District will have five activities at its booth. Craig encouraged Board members to stop by, visit the booth, and assist with activities as their schedules allow.

Craig reminded the Board that the WACD Area meeting will be held October 20th and that someone will need to lead the meeting. The agenda will include presentations from various groups, resolutions, and area business. A presentation from the Tribe, including Rebecca Hunt, is anticipated at the beginning of the meeting.

Craig provided an update on wildfire recovery efforts following a meeting with Senator Short, Hunter, and Philip. He discussed the extent of the losses and ongoing needs, including fencing, grass seeding and replanting, irrigation, and water facilities. Craig noted that potential funding options are being explored despite the State's current financial challenges. He also emphasized the importance of educating decision-makers and the public about the realities and ongoing impacts of the wildfires and the need for funding.

Craig also shared that the State of Washington is forming a BAER team, with a kickoff meeting scheduled for September 9th. The team will be looking at impacts on both state and private lands, and assistance will be needed to facilitate access to private properties.

Finally, Craig informed staff of a change to the staff report process. Moving forward, Directors will collect information from staff and prepare the staff reports rather than having individual staff members write them.

Eli shared an update on the increasing number of technical assistance requests received by the District this year, with requests continuing to come in regularly. He also noted that Thomas is compiling seed information and developing guidance to help with post-fire restoration.

Eli provided an update on conditions within the burn scar and highlighted the positive impacts of recent WDFW work on the landscape. He also shared that recent chipping events in the Nespelem area helped improve defensible space around homes. The District plans to continue offering chipping services and opportunities for residents to dispose of burned materials.

Old Business:

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Water Bank Update – Jordana shared similar updates from the previous board meeting, enthusiastically highlighting continued progress on water-related efforts. She noted that work is continuing on next steps and related agreements. Jordana also shared that progress has been made on the website updates, which are moving through the final stages of approval before launch.

Succession Planning – Craig introduced two proposed succession plans for initial Board feedback, addressing succession for Board Supervisors and the Executive Director. The documents will also be reviewed by Kim and Jordana for additional input. Lorah Super asked about the expectations, training, leadership roles, and limitations of Associate Supervisors. Craig noted that he would review Spokane Conservation District's practices, as they have established guidance related to Associate Supervisors. No motion was made during the meeting.

Board Ethics and Code of Conduct – Craig introduced a new policy; he noted that the policy is intended to establish shared standards for board members to help maintain the district's integrity and reputation as a trusted organization. Jerry Asmussen motioned to approve the Board Ethics and Code of Conduct policy. Phil Dart seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Conflict of Interest - Craig introduced a new Conflict of Interest Policy for initial Board feedback. He noted that the policy is intended to help define conflicts of interest for Board members and establish how they should be addressed. The Board requested that guidance related to Associate Supervisors also be included in the policy. No motion was made during the meeting.

New Business:

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Environmental Conference – Davis shared information about the upcoming Environmental Flows Conference, which will be held in Kelowna, British Columbia, October 7–9, 2026. The conference will bring together water managers, researchers, and Indigenous knowledge holders to discuss environmental flows and water resource management.

Davis noted that the conference is relevant to the District’s drought planning and water resources work, particularly regarding cross-border water management. He highlighted the opportunity for staff to learn from international water management efforts and strengthen connections with regional partners.

Davis shared that travel expenses for himself and Jack Owen will be covered through available Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program training funds. Jerry Asmussen moved to authorize out of state travel and all eligible travel expenses for Davis Clark and Jack Owen to attend the Environment Flows Conference in October of 2026. Michelle Martin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2026-05 District Auditor-Treasurer Designation – Craig explained that RCW 89.08 was amended to allow conservation districts to manage their own finances rather than requiring the county auditor to do so. He noted that the District previously adopted a resolution identifying the District Treasurer by position title; however, employee titles have since changed.

Craig explained that the proposed resolution would rescind the previous resolution and clarify the District Treasurer duties through an employee’s position description, consistent with RCW 89.08.215. The resolution would also maintain the Board Auditor position and designate the remaining Board Supervisors as Alternate Auditors, allowing each supervisor to serve as a check signer. Steve Colvin moved to approve Resolution 2026-05 District Auditor Position. Michelle seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

WACD Resolution – Craig presented two resolutions for Board consideration at the September Board meeting. The first resolution, which was also presented the previous year but did not pass, would request that WACD work with the Legislature to add a representative from the Washington Association of District Employees to the Conservation Commission Board as a full voting member.

The second resolution would request that WACD, in coordination with legislative and partner support, establish a recurring wildfire recovery fund that would be implemented locally through conservation districts.

Phil Dart moved to approve the WACD Resolutions titled 'Adding WADE Representative as SCC Voting Board Member' and 'Creating a Wildfire Recovery Fund.' Steve Colvin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

District Reports: Supervisor Reports

Phil Dart – Phil shared that his area received approximately two inches of rain and that fall grass is beginning to grow. He noted that he plans to begin the fourth cutting after the fair.

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry shared that drought conditions continue to be a significant concern and may have impacts beyond those of the recent fires. He noted some improvement in grass conditions and mentioned upcoming agricultural activities and field demonstrations in the area. Jerry also shared that he has taken steps to improve water availability for his livestock, such as purchasing a water truck.

Steve Colvin – Steve shared that the recent rain was beneficial, helping clear ash from the grape clusters and improve air quality. He noted that subsequent winds did not cause damage and that harvest is expected to begin in approximately 10 days.

Michelle Martin – Michelle shared that she recently went fishing in Conconully and noted that the reservoir remains very low. She also provided an update on RCO funding, noting that the ranking list has been released and fall grant rounds will begin soon. Michelle offered to provide additional information about RCO opportunities as needed.

Lorah Super – Lorah shared concerns about hay availability and noted crop losses at French Creek Fruit, including apples. She also shared that her grapes at home are doing well. The Forest Health Collaborative continues to meet, with ongoing conversations involving Eli and other community members.

Lorah also provided an update on the Watershed Council, noting that it is in a transitional phase as members discuss its future composition and purpose, with interest in continuing to work with the District.

Associate Supervisor Reports

Ivan Oberg – Ivan shared the history of a collection of slides originally obtained from NRCS. After several attempts to preserve and digitize the slides, the collection was eventually returned to the District. Ivan now has the original slides and plans to bring them to staff to discuss how they may be preserved, researched, and used moving forward.

Terri Williams – Terri shared that she has been traveling between Washington and Arizona and plans to be living full-time in Arizona by the end of the month. She shared that she will be starting a career in real estate and that the soil health program she previously worked with the Tribe is no longer operating. Terri also noted that she has begun conversations with Conservation Districts in Arizona.

Lorah Super adjourned the meeting at 8:34 PM.

Summary of Motions

Phil Dart made the motion to approve the Amended Agenda. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Phil Dart seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve Resolution 2026-05 District Auditor Position. Michelle seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Phil Dart moved to approve the WACD Resolutions titled 'Adding WADE Representative as SCC Voting Board Member' and 'Creating a Wildfire Recovery Fund.' Steve Colvin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

 10/13/2026

Lorah Super Date
Chair

 10/15/26

Natalie Torres Date
Administrative Specialist