



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: November 2, 2021; 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	Becky Drenner, Finance Director – Present
Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair – Phone	Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant – Phone
Albert Roberts, District Auditor – Present	Mindy Untalan, Conservation Planner – Phone
Lorah Super, Member – Phone	Ricardo Angel, Natural Resource Technician – Phone
Gerri Oberg, Member – Present	Rena Shawver, Marketing & Communications Specialist – Phone
Bob Clark, Associate Supervisor – Phone	Sarah Troutman, NRCS – Phone
Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor – Phone	Mike Baden, WSCC – Phone
Craig Nelson, Executive Director – Present	

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: Albert Roberts moved to approve the agenda as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Lorah Super moved to approve the October 5, 2021, board meeting minutes as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #822, which covers the checking account activity from October 6, 2021, to November 2, 2021, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval, the following checks/payroll direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 11831 – 11846 totaling 16,225.47.

Two payroll direct withdrawals – numbers ACH4109 – ACH4126 totaling \$28,059.40.

Electronic payments – numbers EFT2934 – EFT2947 totaling \$22,840.73.

Deposits totaling \$68,534.68 were made, including a transfer from Audit savings into checking in the amount of \$6,000.00 to cover the costs of the audit.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #822 as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Albert Roberts – Albert reported he attended meetings for the audit.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan reported that they got some good rain up their way.

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry reported that the calves are weaned. He's loving the rain, reporting 1½ inches over the week, adding he was digging post holes in Waconda and there was moisture to the bottom of the holes.

Lorah Super – Lorah reported she presented information regarding water issues at the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting in Spokane on October 6. She stated the discussion regarding water banking continued throughout the month, culminating in a meeting with the County Commissioners to draft a memorandum of understanding regarding cooperation between the district and the county for the water bank. She informed that WACD reappointed her to the natural resource committee.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

Bob Clark had nothing to report.

Randy Kelley reported that he assisted the district with planting seedlings at Gert's property in the Chiliwist, commenting that the day was well organized, and things went very smoothly.

Staff Report:

Craig reported that today was the first of a series of meetings for WACD, adding that he is on the legislative committee. The meeting ended with a relatively technical discussion about accessibility for those with disabilities, which is something the district will need to consider more closely.

Craig went on to say that there was a follow-up meeting last week for the EWP and after developing hydrology risks for homeowners within or just outside the fire perimeter, all homes had pre-fire flood risk with only one home being marginally eligible for the program. However, the home is about 15 feet from the creek's edge, so the site has no room to put a buffer between the home and the creek. There have been conversations about the town of Conconully and North Fork Salmon Creek but there is nothing the EWP can do, despite the increased risk for severe flooding. Craig reported that the public works director would like to deepen the channel of the creek as it gets closer to town so it can contain greater flow capacity and he will be meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers in the next couple weeks to discuss options. There was also some discussion about removing the lowest bridge controlled by the city, which is Broadway, because it only allows 600-650 cfs under it and estimates are predicting flows of up to 1,800+ cfs in the worst case scenario. However, this suggestion met with resounding resistance from the town's residents. Otherwise, Craig stated there is one homeowner within or near the Walker Creek fire near Bonaparte that will likely qualify for the EWP and he intends on being in touch with that individual to find out if they are interested.

Craig reported that there have been comments from other districts about local workgroup meetings and whether they are worth the effort. The amount of funding that local workgroups

have been allotted has significantly diminished over the last several years. The state technical advisory committee meets this Thursday and Craig may join them to discuss the issue, adding that other managers do not want to continue with the program because there is just not enough funding to make it worth it.

Becky reported that it has been a busy month with the accountability audit, which she will discuss in greater detail later in the meeting. Otherwise, staff have been working hard on grant applications and budget preparations for 2022.

Review, Approve and Sign Contracts and Conservation Plans

Okanogan County Title III Grant Contract – Mindy reported that district staff applied for another round of Title III grant funds for the full amount of \$134,000.00. The Board of County Commissioners reviewed proposals on October 19, 2021, and Craig and Mindy attended the meeting. The Commissioners awarded a portion of the available funds to Search and Rescue with the remainder of the funds going to the Okanogan CD Wildfire Resiliency project. This will allow staff to continue to conduct home risk assessments, cleanup day events (chipper and dumpster), partner with Team Rubicon, as well as other outreach activities regarding wildfire preparedness. The award is for approximately \$114,000.00 and would take effect January 1, 2022, with a one-year funding cycle. Staff will continue working with the county to adjust deliverables based on the funding award. Lorah Super moved to authorize Craig Nelson or Ivan Oberg to sign the Title III Grant Contract when it is finalized with the county. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

NRCS Report

Sarah expressed the importance of the state technical committee attendance, informing that the EWP update would occur around noon, followed by lunch and then the local workgroup discussion after lunch. Otherwise, NRCS is going full force, already working on 2022 EQIP applications with that program already being closed. Sarah also reported that the WaterSmart proposal was approved so NRCS will be working on getting Whitestone Reclamation District to participate in EQIP.

Partner Reports

Mike Baden reported that Carol Smith has stepped down and Kirk Robinson has been brought on as the WSCC Interim Director. The Commission did approve the elections committee recommendations; however, changes will not take place this year so elections will proceed as usual until the statutes are updated. Mike confirmed that Lorah is up for appointment and Steve is up for election. Mike added that MRSC will be presenting during one of the WACD sessions to discuss COVID vaccination requirement recommendations.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Old Business:

Water Bank Update – Craig informed there seems to be a consensus between the County Commissioners and the district that the district be the lead for the water bank and the county will be a sort of junior partner. The district will be responsible for acquiring water rights within the

county, making them available for agricultural uses and the county will step in when water is needed for municipal, commercial, or residential use in various parts of the watersheds. Craig informed that Andy Hover is the lead for the county, and he will work with Craig to develop an initial draft of an agreement between the county and the district. Craig is hoping to hear from the Commission regarding funding to hire a consultant to help walk the district through the process of acquiring the first water right by developing a purchase and sale agreement to the effect that if everything passes with the Department of Ecology the district will pay X number of dollars for X number of water rights, which will then establish the water bank. A party who is interested in selling their water rights has reportedly already had a report of examination conducted, which has been signed off by the DOE. If that ROE has been completed the process should be relatively easy. Lorah added that she and Craig will be meeting with DOE to get a few questions answered prior to submitting any application.

Craig added that one of the things the County Commissioners brought up was allowing short-term leases for water rights to be transferred out of the basin, which would help fund the water bank. Craig suggested that, if that was agreed upon, the leases be kept to only 5-10 years to keep the water right lease in the memory of current staff and supervisors to ensure it comes back to the basin. Lorah interjected that it seems premature to have that discussion right now, stating that to some degree that market is already being served, adding that there are other mechanisms for funding to consider first. Albert added that he appreciates the efforts that are being made and certainly thinks the water bank is a good endeavor.

Accountability Audit – Becky informed that the accountability audit for 2018-2020 went extremely well with no recommendations or suggestions from the State Auditor’s Office. The audit covered 2018-2020. The auditor, Steven Gadd, looked at minutes, payroll, contracts, and some financials to ensure the district was using public funds well and following its policies and procedures. Steven and his supervisor stated that it was quite rare for an audit to come back with no recommendations or suggestions and the district should be commended and that the longevity of the Board of Supervisors certainly added to such a successful accountability audit.

New Business:

NACD 2022 Membership Dues – Becky informed that NACD offers several levels of membership ranging from \$1.00 to \$3,000.00+. Becky recommended the Gold level membership of \$775.00, which is typically what the district has committed in the past. Craig added that for the second time in his career the president of NACD hails from Washington State and to show support for the organization, Craig recommended that we pay the full membership. Albert Roberts moved to pay the NACD Conservation Investment at the Gold level of \$775.00. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2022 Budget Update – Becky reported that the 2022 budget process has begun. The planners have submitted their 2022 budgets for the grants that they manage and Becky is compiling the data. A final budget will be presented at the December board meeting.

WACD Business Meeting Attendance – Craig informed that WACD is holding their business meeting in a mixed format. Attendees may be physically present or may participate using a virtual platform. Craig plans to attend in person and asked who among the supervisors wished to

