



# Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

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**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** January 4, 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 – Present  
Steve Colvin, Member – Phone  
Lorah Super, Member – Phone  
Gerri Oberg, Member – Present  
Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor – Present  
Bob Clark, Associate Supervisor – Phone  
Craig Nelson, Executive Director – Phone

Becky Drenner, Finance Director – Phone  
Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant – Phone  
Aaron Wold, Range Planner Lead – Phone  
Kim Kogler, Education Specialist – Present  
Ricardo Angel, Natural Resource Technician – Phone  
Rena Shawver, Marketing & Comm. Specialist – Phone  
Mike Baden, WSCC – Phone  
Cathy Cannon, NRCS Tribal District Conservationist – 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:** Albert Roberts moved to approve the agenda as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Lorah Super moved to approve the December 7, 2021, board meeting minutes as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #824,** which covers the checking account activity from December 8, 2021, to January 4, 2022, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval, the following checks/payroll direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 11855 – 11866 totaling \$47,729.09.

Two payroll direct withdrawals – numbers ACH4145 – ACH4163 totaling \$28,185.84.

Electronic payments – numbers EFT2965 – EFT2975 totaling \$15,996.77.

A transfer from Checking to Savings in the amount of \$13,500.00 (10% of Rates & Charges).

A transfer from Savings to Checking of \$32,000.00 for the purchase of the 2022 Toyota Prius.

Deposits totaling \$58,712.89 were made.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #824. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Supervisor Reports:**

**Albert Roberts** – Albert reported having been able to get the tractor started every day and otherwise, has been trying to stay warm and keep all the cows fed. Albert added that 25° F seems nice.

**Ivan Oberg** – Ivan reported that the temperature got down to -14° F one night.

**Jerry Asmussen** – Jerry reported that it is snowy and cold.

**Lorah Super** – Lorah reported that her Subaru seems to be the only vehicle in the family that has not needed its battery charged, having learned the hard way that the tractor needed a new battery. Otherwise, it has been calm.

**Steve Colvin** – Steve reported that it is cold, and he has been loving the snow.

### **Associate Supervisor Reports:**

Randy has been working on the 2022 Conservation Celebration, looking into caterers, food providers, locations, etc., which will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

Bob reported that his good friend came to visit for two weeks from North Dakota, having left just in time before the storm. Two days ago, Bob participated in the annual Christmas bird count, which reported 57 different species, but that that number will probably go up this week as more counts come in. Of note, there were about 2,100 starlings and a lot of bald eagles.

### **Staff Report:**

Craig reported that he and his family took a vacation to the Bahamas on a cruise ship. Their return trip was complicated by having to rent a car and drive from New Orleans to Seattle to get their personal vehicle. He said it was nice to have the time off and appreciated staff holding down the fort. Craig did indicate that because of vacation, he has not been in the office enough to work through his to-dos. Craig informed that Mindy resigned and that he and Amy have discussed how best to fill that position. Craig went on to say that the director's conducted another water quality applicant interview, which went well, and staff are calling references with hopes of offering the candidate the position. Additionally, there has been some consideration of hiring another of the water quality applicants as a technician to do fire recovery and water quality monitoring, noting that it has been difficult to keep projects limping along as positions have been vacated.

Becky reported elections are coming up and that she will be working with Rena on an ad campaign.

Kim reported the regional Envirothon will be April 27<sup>th</sup> at Filaree Fruit in Okanogan.

### **Partner Reports**

Mike Baden reported that a special executive session was held on December 21 and negotiations to hire the top candidate for the WSCC Executive Director position were entered, though there is no other information at this time. Mike informed that the supplemental budget adds funding for

sustainable farms and field for technical assistance and potentially cost share funds for climate change mitigation, along with \$1.3 million to put into riparian plant propagation. Mike stated that some bills have been pre-filed, including a bill that supports recommendations from the joint committee on elections, along with one that put all five members on the general ballot; however, the joint committee recommendation has support. Mike indicated that Ron may be reaching out to CDs to encourage them to talk with their legislators. The Commission has been discussing the Department of Ecology stock water policy and there will likely be a request calling stakeholders together to discuss it in detail, asking for additional input. Regarding fire recovery, there is continued encouragement for districts to continue submitting requests for funding. Mike stated he would be following NRI funding guidelines and checking in with district staff regarding project statuses in the next week or so and that otherwise the district is on track with its long-range plan and elections.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Old Business:**

**Water Bank Update** – Craig informed he will be putting together a request for proposal for firms to help with putting the water bank together and negotiating the first water rights purchase. The hope is to have a contract ready by the February board meeting. Craig informed a draft agreement between the county and the district establishing the relationship was sent to Andy Hover. Lorah added that she sent along a few suggested edits, which came from Mary McCray, but that she would be taking a more detailed look as well.

**Conservation Celebration 2022** – Randy presented information regarding the status of planning the 2022 Conservation Celebration, including preliminary costs and program suggestions. Jerry added that he is leaning towards a more warm-weather venue. Lorah expressed a desire to make it happen and offered to help as needed. Steve added that he agreed doing the event in warmer weather would be good.

Albert asked about the development of donations to the district. Becky informed checks and cash could be received without problem. The previous recommendation from the state auditor discouraged using a third-party vendor to accept donations via cards but that stance has since changed and so the district will likely be using a third-party vendor to accept electronic donations in the near future.

**New Business:**

**Resolution 2022-01 NACD UrbanAg School Gardens Grant Application** – Kim informed that the National Association of Conservation Districts require a board resolution to apply for their Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative for Fiscal Year 2022. Kim informed that the district is still receiving feedback via survey responses from Okanogan County educators regarding the garden programs. These responses indicate there is enough interest to justify an application for the NACD UrbanAg grant funds. Albert Roberts moved to approve Resolution 2022-01 NACD UrbanAg School Gardens Grant Application and authorize Ivan Oberg to sign it. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Surplus Vehicle Bid & Copier Transfer** – Jess presented an offer for the Prius that was received from last month’s surplus sale. The offer is for less than the minimum required bid that was listed on the bid form. However, at the time the minimum bid was set, staff were unaware that the battery may need replacing and that the tires require replacement. There were two bids submitted below the minimum, one for \$200.00 and one for \$2,750.00, which is only \$750.00 below the minimum of \$3,500.00. Craig Nelson recommended accepting the offer. Lorah Super moved to accept the \$2,750.00 bid for the 2007 Prius and proceed with the sale. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Secondly, the old copier did not receive any bids and, because the district is not legally allowed to donate items, a reasonable solution to removing the old copier from district inventory would be to seek a government-to-government transfer by offering it to other districts and/or government agencies. Albert Roberts moved to authorize staff to offer the old copier to other districts first and then other government agencies via a government-to-government transfer. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Adjustment to Jess McDaniel’s and Becky Drenner’s Approved Wage Increase** – Becky informed that Jess’ evaluation form, which was submitted for board approval last month, contained the wrong step recommendation. A two-step increase was recommended, which would be Range 40, Step E (\$19.80/hour) rather than Step D (\$19.37/hour). Craig informed that Becky’s evaluation was completed before the final budget was figured and initially recommended a one-step wage increase. Subsequently, after completing all evaluations, two steps were recommended for all eligible employees and Becky’s was not changed. Becky has earned a two-step wage increase and therefore her annual salary should be Range 60, Step D, \$65,928.00. Steve Colvin moved to approve the recommended two-step increase for Jess McDaniel and Becky Drenner. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry suggested redoing the OPPA training, which Craig said was on his agenda to set up with Mike Baden.

### **NRCS Report**

Sarah Troutman sent her report via email, which was forwarded. Cathy, the NRCS Tribal District Conservationist, mentioned that NRCS currently has three new EQIP programs that are accepting applications until January 24. The first of the three new programs are the Conservation Incentives Contract, which is a sort of steppingstone to CSP with a focused resource concern in this region of forest health and wind erosion. Cathy added that the CIC EQIP is a separate pot of funding and does not count towards producer’s farm bill funding. The two other programs that were announced today are the new UrbanAg and WaterSmart EQIP programs. Urban Ag focuses on soil health, water efficiency, and high tunnels, and most towns in the area are included in that program. The WaterSmart program is an irrigation efficiency program for folks within the Whitestone Reclamation District.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.



Summary of Motions

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

Lorah Super moved to approve the December 7, 2021, board meeting minutes as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #824. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

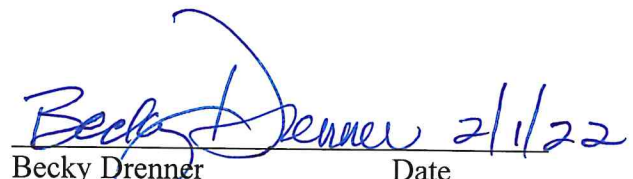
Albert Roberts moved to approve Resolution 2022-01 NACD UrbanAg School Gardens Grant Application, authorizing Ivan Oberg to sign it. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to accept the \$2,750.00 bid for the 2007 Prius and proceed with the sale. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to authorize staff to offer the old copier to other districts first and then other government agencies via a government-to-government transfer. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve the recommended two-step increase for Jess McDaniel and Becky Drenner. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

  
Ivan Oberg \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Chair

  
Becky Drenner \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Finance Director