



# Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

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**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** April 5, 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 – Present  
Albert Roberts, District Auditor – Phone  
Steve Colvin, Member – Present  
Gerri Oberg, Member – Present  
Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor – Phone  
Craig Nelson, Executive Director – Present  
Becky Drenner, Finance Director – Present

Amy Martin, Conservation Director – Present  
Chevelle Yeckel, Water Quality & Riparian Planner – Present  
Eli Loftis, Wildfire & Community Resilience Lead – Present  
Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant – Phone  
Aaron Wold, Range Planner Lead – Phone  
Rena Shawver, Marketing & Outreach Specialist – Phone  
Kim Kogler, Education 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:** Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Steve Colvin moved to approve the March 1, 2022 board meeting minutes as presented. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #827,** which covers the checking account activity from March 2, 2022, to April 5, 2022, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval, the following checks/payroll direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 11895– 11912 totaling \$64,094.99.

Three payroll direct withdrawals, including Ricardo's leave payout – numbers ACH4192 – ACH4221 - totaling \$43,675.31.

Electronic payments – numbers EFT3002 – EFT3017 totaling \$26,207.51.

Deposits totaling \$76,817.49 were made.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #827. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Supervisor Reports:**

**Albert Roberts** – Albert reported having gone over the schedule 22 with Becky and Mike Baden and that it went quite well. Took part in a call with approximately 2,000 other folks from around the state, dealing with stock water facilities and the need for water rights. Otherwise, he has been busy calving and looking forward to the cows getting put out to feed themselves in less than a month.

**Ivan Oberg** – Ivan had nothing to report.

**Jerry Asmussen** – Jerry reported seeing the balsam root blooming and that he is getting ready to turn out cows.

**Steve Colvin** – Steve reported having a call from Mike Mumford, Vice President of WACD, and having a promising conversation for possibility meeting some of the sustainable practices that have not yet been identified. Otherwise, he started watering yesterday because it is so dry.

### **Associate Supervisor Reports:**

Randy reported that he has been trying to reach Leonel at Red Rooster to remind him of the May 11<sup>th</sup> date and ask if he has some of the required paperwork and insurance coverage certificates ready. Otherwise, nothing else to report.

### **Staff Report:**

Craig reported having spent a lot of work this last month getting the 5-year and annual plans of work finished. Also, going through the motions of filling positions and getting position descriptions written as adequately and thoroughly as possible with Amy's help. Amy got the irrigation planner position posted, which is open until filled. Craig brought Justin and Dylan on board part-time until mid-May when they will go full-time. Dylan will be helping Eli with HIZ assessments, air quality and chipping projects, as well as forest health programs. Justin will be the VSP Coordinator and will be working with Aaron on range health monitoring programs, particularly range and upland monitoring.

Craig went on to report that he got a phone call a few weeks ago from Brandon Rogers, of the Yakama Indian Nation in the Methow, who is the biologist working with the USFS and the UCFHC on the Midnight Restoration Project, which split from the Methow Restoration Project. Craig informed that the UCSRB, the Yakama's, and the FHC are shopping for a contracting firm to do the NEPA for the USFS and the district keeps coming up. Craig wanted to be sure to inform the board because it is unclear whether district staff will have the capability to assist with that work.

Becky reported the election went well and that the unofficial winner was Steve Colvin, which will be made official at the State Conservation Commission May meeting. Both polling officers have already signed up for next year. The schedule 22 went well, as Albert mentioned, and otherwise the annual financial report is a focus as it is due May 30.

Eli Loftis introduced himself and shared his education background and work history.

Rena reported that Thursday is her last day and wanted to thank everyone at the district, expressing her appreciation for the what the district has taught her.

Amy mentioned that individuals in the Whitestone Irrigation District have a special pot of funding at NRCS to convert canals to pipelines, along with special opportunities for those who use the water within the district. Otherwise, Amy is still working through the FEMA application with WA Emergency Management and is making progress in that regard, though new paperwork is continually be introduced. Amy concluded by informing that this will be her last board meeting and she wanted to reiterate her appreciation for the board and the district.

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

**Whitestone Mountain Orchard Pollinator Planting** – Chevelle informed that Whitestone Mountain Orchard is implementing planting plans of native species between orchard blocks to encourage native pollinator and beneficial insects. These plants will be installed in a hedge-row-island style planting to make for ease of access for maintenance around the plantings. Deer fence surrounds the orchard and planting sites will be enclosed within the fence boundary. Several solitary bee boxes, built by Randy Kelley and the Okanogan Girl Scouts, will be provided as rearing space. This is a 4-acre planting project, which will establish pollinator and beneficial insect habitat with native plant species that bloom in seasonal succession for year-round pollinator forage to increase orchard tree fruit pollination and improve insect pest control. The cooperators will provide irrigation installation, site preparation including tilling, mowing, mulching, and solarization as well as planting native plants provided. The total project cost is \$13,916.12, with the cooperator providing at least 25% of total costs. Albert Roberts moved to approve the cost-share contract signed by the landowner and authorize Ivan Oberg or Craig Nelson to sign the contract when it is available. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **NRCS Report**

Sarah Troutman sent her report via email, which was forwarded.

### **Partner Reports**

There were no partner reports.

### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

### **Old Business:**

**Water Bank Update** – Craig reported that Aspect Consulting has been contracted to help with the process of setting up the water bank. Things will ramp up next week beginning with a conversation with the water right holder, developing a purchase and sale agreement, and the grant application development. A discussion with Okanogan County Commissioners regarding the operation of the bank is also on the docket. Craig informed that Lorah and he will meet with the Methow Watershed Council on the April 14 to discuss the water bank with them, who's number one priority is domestic use so there will be a lot of discussion with them regarding the future of the bank. By June 30, the first sale and agreement should be completed, along with the

submittal of a grant application to the Department of Ecology to further develop the water bank, along with a more structured agreement with the county.

**Conservation Celebration 2022 – Award Nominations** – Albert informed that he would like the honor of introducing Hilary Franz. Otherwise, an MC needs to be determined and invitations need to be sent. Awards nomination suggestions are as follows:

Conservation Partner – Classroom in Bloom

Sustainability Star – Watershine Woods

Conservation Teacher – Chelsea Trout and Julie Vanderwal

Conservation Excellence – Casey Kuchenbuch

Wildlife Habitat Farmer of the Year – Ed Shallenberger

**New Business:**

**5-Year and Annual Work Plans** – Craig presented the 5-year and annual work plan drafts, which are ready for public comment. Steve Colvin moved to authorize Craig Nelson to distribute the plans of work to the public for comment. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**WADE Training Invitation and Authorization** – Craig informed that the WADE conference will be held in person in Leavenworth at the Sleeping Lady this June. Registration is \$500/person. Jess will be filling out and submitting a WADE Scholarship for the maximum allowable funds. Albert Roberts moved to authorize up to 10 staff members to attend the 2022 WADE Conference. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Oroville School District RISE (Rural Innovation Stronger Economy) Partnership Agreement** – Kim informed that the Oroville School District is applying for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program, which offers grant assistance to create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters and maximize the use of local productive assets in eligible low-income rural areas. In lieu of letters of support, the grant application asks for a single collective partnership agreement. Jerry Asmussen moved to authorize Craig Nelson to review the Oroville School District RISE Partnership Agreement to ensure it fits into the district's goals and commitments and authorize him to sign the completed MOU. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.

