



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: January 5, 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Teleconference – (509) 422-0855, ext. 7
FROM: Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, District Chair – Phone

Albert Roberts, District Auditor – Present

Lorah Super, Member – Phone

Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor – Phone

Dale Swedberg, Associate Supervisor - Phone

Bob Clark, Associate Supervisor– Phone

Craig Nelson, Executive Director - Present

Becky Drenner, Finance Director – Present

Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant – Phone

Mindy Untalan, Conservation Planner – Phone

Kirsten Cook, Community Outreach Director – Phone

Hannah Coe, Conservation Planner – Phone

Meeting Call to Order: Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Ivan completed a roll call of Supervisors, Associate Supervisors, staff, partners, and the public.

Agenda Approval: Lorah Super moved to approve the agenda as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The agenda was amended to allow for a quorum of voting board members to address time sensitive matters including approval of amended agenda, last meeting’s minutes, and treasurer’s report #812, as well as addressing old and new business. After those matters were addressed, Lorah Super exited the meeting due to inclement weather conditions in her area.

Approval of Minutes: Albert Roberts moved to approve the December 8, 2020 board meeting minutes as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report #812, which covers the checking account activity from December 9, 2020 to January 5, 2021 inclusive was presented for the Board’s approval. The following checks/payroll direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 11701-11712 totaling \$14,379.18. Check #11701 & 11708 were voided.

Payroll direct withdrawal - numbers ACH3907 – ACH3926 totaling \$29,497.56.

Electronic payments - numbers EFT2805 – EFT2814 totaling \$17,925.17.

Transfers from Checking into Savings totaling \$11,900.00.

Deposits totaling \$131,432.30 were made.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer’s Report #812. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Retroactive Approval of Revised Albin Cost Share Payment – Becky reminded the Board that an increase in cost-share for the NPS Albin project was approved in December but added that some match provided by the landowners had not been included in the final calculations. Those hours were added, which increased the amount of the total project, changing the 75/25 split and increasing the amount of the cost-share owed to the landowner. In December, \$1,846.54 was approved for reimbursement; the correct amount of reimbursement should have been \$2,014.38. Because NPS closeout was December 31, the correct payment needed to be made by then. Therefore, Craig authorized payment, both he and Ivan Oberg signed the check, and it was sent before the end of December. Lorah Super moved to retroactively approve the adjusted Albin cost-share payment. Ivan Oberg seconded the motion and the motion passed with one abstention by Albert Roberts due to a conflict of interest.

New Business:

Resolution 2021-01 Adopted Election Resolution – Becky informed that the term for supervisor position currently held by Albert Roberts will be expiring in May. She reported that the proposed election date of March 23 is later than typically scheduled but is still within the WSCC election timeframe. The thought is that a later election will provide warmer temperatures if an outdoor election is deemed necessary, providing a safer environment for voters if COVID-19 is still a significant health concern at that time. Lorah Super moved to approve Resolution 2021-01, establishing the date, time, and location for the Okanogan CD supervisor election. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Lorah Super – Lorah briefly reported that they were buried in snow and ice at her place, explaining the reason for her early departure from the board meeting.

Albert Roberts – Albert reported that it has been wet with both snow and rain, stating that he has recorded a little over 2 inches of rain at his place in the last month, which is soaking into the soil and not running off into the draws. He added that the first of this year's calves were on the ground already. Other than that, he has been working on a lot of indoor projects for his house.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan reported that it has been snowing up at his place, noting that the south-facing slopes have about 6-7 inches of snow while the north-facing slopes have at least a foot out in the woods.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

Randy reported that he has not been up to much, although he did get his wife's office moved into the house, which he lightheartedly added has disrupted his naps and other unproductive activities a little bit.

Bob reported that he went on a trike ride on Sunday but otherwise has been hunkering down and using his full spectrum light to keep his vitamin D levels up.

Dale commented that he has had a long absence from Board meetings. He went on to report that his father passed in January of last year. In February, Dale had surgery on his left knee, which

was not as effective as everyone had hoped. Dale added that he and his wife went to Holden Village for a 6-week tour of duty in October and concluded by stating the he would like to participate more in the coming months.

Staff Report:

Craig reported that December was quiet, though Amy was extremely busy getting the first VSP 5-year report submitted by its due date, which was just after Christmas. Craig added that the District will now wait until June for the State Technical Panel to review the report.

Craig informed that the Okanogan CD 5-year plan will need to be updated by the end of May this year, along with a new annual plan of work. Under normal circumstances, this would be accomplished with participants brainstorming together in an in-person setting, but with the pandemic that is not a viable option this year. Therefore, he suggested that he reach out to a few cooperators, partners, and other community members with a survey and possibly follow-up phone calls or emails to get input on highest priorities. His plan is to get input from these individuals by mid-February and have a draft plan for the board to consider at the March meeting. The District can then ask for public comment and approve the plan in April, or May at the latest. The annual plan of work will be like previous years in that Craig will look at existing projects and grants and include them as the work to be finished in the coming year. Tasks in the annual plan will then need to be tied back to the revised 5-year plan. That means the annual plan cannot be finished until the 5-year plan is nearly finished.

Craig concluded his report by adding that the Governor's budget looks far better for conservation than originally feared. A few projects, such as CREP, will receive more money than asked for; irrigation efficiencies will be fully funded. While the most recent disbursement of implementation funds took a 15% hit, if the current budget holds true, the District will receive a full implementation disbursement in the coming year.

Kirsten reported that she has continued with fire recovery at her place, getting the last of the hazard trees removed from her driveway. Otherwise, she stated there are grants coming on with funds for risk assessments in the coming season and hopefully COVID risks will decrease so District staff can do more site visits.

Review, Approve and Sign Contracts and Conservation Plans

Icicle Fund Grant – Mindy presented information regarding the Icicle Fund Grant application, which is a one-year grant with funding up to \$15,000 to support organizations that have influence in the arts, environment, or history in and of Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, and Grant counties. The funds would be used to support the District's Firewise program. Staff has been working on the grant application, and the funding organization would like to see board approval of the grant application, which is due January 15. Without a quorum of voting members Craig will give authorization for Mindy to continue and the topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

Pre-Approval of DNR Contract – Mindy reported that she has been in contact with Jennifer Watkins, the Planning, Science, and Monitoring Assistant Division Manager for DNR. DNR is in the process of signing an agreement with FEMA. Part of the money can be used to contract with a partnering agency to hire a contractor to write the cost benefit analysis for the 2020

Hazard Mitigation Post Fire grant application. Mindy added that she is not sure if DNR and the grant timeline will align for the District to take advantage of the assistance DNR could provide in writing the grant. However, the grant application is due February 12, so staff would like to get preapproval to contract with DNR and hire a contractor for the purpose of writing the cost benefit analysis portion of the 2020 Hazard Mitigation grant. Craig clarified that the District would write the grant but that the cost benefit portion, which is quite onerous, would be written by someone else. Albert Roberts agreed to authorize Craig to allow Mindy to proceed, and that this topic would likewise be revisited at the next board meeting.

DNR FAC Pilot 2021 Amendment – Kirsten informed that there was time to allow this topic to be tabled until the next board meeting.

NRCS Report

Sarah Troutman was not present, but she did email Craig a brief report stating that they have been busy with EQIP applications. On the staffing front, a Nespelem conservationist position has been offered and accepted, though not officially announced yet. Additionally, NRCS will be advertising for a forester position in Okanogan, which will be filled as a direct hire, whereby Sarah will receive applications as individuals submit them rather than all at once after a closing date. The hope is that this will help expedite the hiring process. It has been advertised at a lower grade, so recruitment for the position may be slightly more challenging. Otherwise, offices remain closed to the public.

Partner Reports

There were no partners present.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 6:37 PM.

