



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: August 2, 2022; Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogan Conservation District Office, Okanogan, WA and Remotely via Microsoft Teams
FROM: Kim Kogler, Education Specialist/Becky Drenner, Finance Director

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, District Chair – Present	Chevelle Yeckel, Water Quality & Riparian Planner – Present
Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair – Present	Kim Kogler, Education Specialist – Present
Albert Roberts, District Auditor – Present	Dylan Streeter, Conservation Planner – Present
Steve Colvin, Member – Present	Eli Loftis, Wildfire & Community Resilience Lead – Present
Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor – Present	Aaron Wold, Range Planner Lead – Present
Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor – Present	Emmy Engle, Communication & Outreach Specialist – Present
Craig Nelson, Executive Director – Present	Sarah Troutman, NRCS – Present
Becky Drenner, Finance Director – Present	Celeste Acord, FSA – Present

Meeting Call to Order: Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Ivan completed a roll call of Supervisors, Associate Supervisors, staff, partners, and the public.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Agenda Approval: Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the agenda. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Albert Roberts moved to approve the July 5, 2022 board meeting minutes as amended. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #831, which covers the checking account activity from July 6, 2022, to August 2, 2022, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval, the following checks/payroll direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 11983 - 11993 totaling \$34,057.38.

Two payroll direct withdrawals – numbers ACH4282 – ACH4301 - totaling \$28,495.99.

Electronic payments – numbers EFT3058 – EFT3072 totaling \$20,953.68.

Deposits totaling \$93,486.80 were made.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #831. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Albert Roberts – Albert reported that it's not wet anymore. Things are drying up; springs still wet and moisture is in the ground. Grass shut off but will start as it cools off again. Start cutting seconds tomorrow.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan reported that he went on the backside of Bonaparte and reported disappointment in the amount of forest burned from wildfires.

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry reported that he signed conservation plans for NRCS. There is still smoke coming off the bog from the fires last year. We don't know where the cows are because the grass is too tall.

Steve Colvin – Steve reported that he had over 100 degrees multiple days in a row, and felt like 120 degrees at one point. Crops are doing alright, just need more water. Cows look for shade around 10:00 or 11:00 in the morning. Hot isn't hurting anything. People in Douglas and Spokane County have started to cut wheat already. He knows someone cutting over 80 bushels, the only problem is that it is over 4 feet tall.

Lorah Super – Lorah was not present.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

Randy reported that he worked with Chevelle on irrigation systems for a project. He reported working with NRCS as well.

Staff Reports:

Craig reported that the district completed interviews for the Administration and Irrigation positions. The Administrative Assistant position was offered to Cassandra Lange, and she accepted. Craig plans to call the references for the irrigation position soon. Fair is coming up – the district booth number is A44. The Ecology Livestock BMPS funds for timber barriers was cut due to miscommunication and slow start of implementation. Ecology wanted grant funds to go towards monitoring timber barriers as proof of effectiveness (detailed monitoring) and we intended to monitor solely for the presence or absence of cattle (simplified monitoring). Other task funds still available.

Becky reported a very busy month. Some commission grants were closed, and new commission grants brought on.

Review, Approve and Sign Contracts and Conservation Plans

FSA Conservation Reserve Program conservation plan – There is an FSA Conservation Reserve Program re-enrollment contract that needs approval for the conservation plan. Celeste Acord, FSA County Executive Director provided details. FSA has been busy with the CRP program: 8 grassland reserve plans moving forward this year, 7 of which are in the Methow with the same cooperator (3,400 acres). The other one is up north. General CRP re-enrollment: 4 expired, 1 re-enrolled (630 acres, up north). This plan concerns access control and keeping acres in perennial cover. Final conservation plan is a CREP re-enrollment. Chevelle did a status review, and everything looked okay. It is 2.5 acres. Cost share was dropped by more than half for

the re-enrollment. They are all 15-year plans. Jerry Asmussen moved to assign responsibility to approve and sign the CRP Re-Enrollment Conservation Plans, similar to when the board signs NRCS plans. Albert Roberts seconded the motion the motion passed unanimously.

WSCC Salmon Recovery Funding for AVR – This project will install best management practices along two miles of Antoine Creek including exclusion fencing (382) and Critical Area Planting (342). The proposed 3 miles of livestock exclusion fencing is estimated to cost \$70,900.61 and will prevent livestock from freely accessing the creek. Presently, livestock has unrestricted access to the entire two miles of the creek on AVR. Okanogan CD plans to install 1852 willow/cottonwood stakes and 500 one-gallon potted native riparian plants (red osier dogwood, wild rose, wax currant, snowberry) to improve nearly five (5) acres of riparian area for an estimated cost of \$10,465.64. Fast-growing riparian pants have been selected as the primary species to install to restore soil stability, establish cover in a short amount of time, and establish roots that encourage hyporheic exchange. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the WSCC Salmon Recovery Grant for 86,366.24 and authorize staff to implement it. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

NRCS Report

Sarah Troutman reported that federal employees are back to wearing masks due to high COVID rates in Okanogan County. NRCS is mostly working on CRP. Whitestone did back out of contract, so NRCS sent back \$900,000 to federal. NRCS will get continued funding in the area for farm practices. The cultural resource specialist is leaving, and the state position retired, so there is no cultural resource surveying for the time being. Celeste Acord is hired as the new resource conservationist.

Partner Reports

There were no partners present.

Old Business:

Water Bank Update – Craig reported that he’s still waiting to hear back from Ecology about funding. The commission gave the district about \$36,000 in water bank funds this year. Craig will be completing his upcoming presentations in the next weeks.

2022 CRM State Executive Committee Tour – The committee decided that they will visit another location because they want to tour CRM with specific focuses rather than ongoing CRM projects.

New Business:

The board entered Executive Session for a personnel evaluation at 7:06 for 15 minutes. At 7:23 PM the board returned to public session. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve Chevelle Yeckel’s 6-month evaluation, change her employment status from probationary to regular, and increase her wage by one step. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Summary of Motions

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the agenda. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

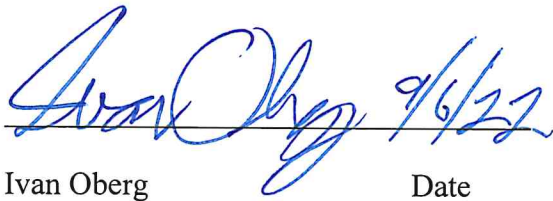
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 9/6/22

Ivan Oberg
Chair

Date

 9/6/22

Becky Drenner
Finance Director

Date