



# Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

---

**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** April 14, 2026; Board of Supervisors Meeting  
**LOCATION:** Okanogan Conservation District Office, Okanogan, WA and  
Remotely via Microsoft Teams and Teleconference  
**FROM:** Natalie Torres, Administrative Specialist

**PRESENT:**

Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair  
Steve Colvin, Supervisor  
Phil Dart, Supervisor  
Randy Kelley, Associate Supervisor  
Ivan Oberg, Associate Supervisor  
Bob Clark, Associate Supervisor  
Craig Nelson, Executive Director

Natalie Torres, Administrative Specialist  
Emmy Engle, Outreach & Communication Lead  
Celeste Acord, NRCS  
Amber Jackson, ECY  
Tami Tatom, All4Paws Okanogan  
Renee Bretz, All4Paws Okanogan  
Michelle Martin

**Meeting Call to Order:** Jerry Asmussen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He completed a roll call of Supervisors, Associate Supervisors, staff, partners, and the public.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Agenda Approval:** Phil Dart moved to approve the agenda. Steve Colvin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Phil Dart moved to approve board meeting minutes. Steve Colvin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #875,** which covers the checking account activity from March 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, inclusive, was presented for the Board's approval. The following checks/payroll/direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

The payroll deposits for this period include two direct deposits: one covering March 1-15, 2026, in the amount of \$31,688.35, and another for March 16-31, 2026, totaling \$33,802.07. The combined total of payroll deposits is \$65,490.42.

Payroll deductions for this period amount to \$38,078.72. The HCA payment check (13081) totaled \$16,592.56. Altogether, the total payroll-related transactions for this period amount to \$120,161.70.

Checks issued during this timeframe include numbers 13066 through 13090. The total claims for checks amount to \$232,343.49. Additionally, EFT debits, general ledger adjustments, and credit card payments total \$8,749.16. The combined total of claims paid or processed is \$241,092.65.

Outstanding expenses remaining total \$56,323.42.

The beginning balance of the checking account was \$505,062.69. During this period, deposits totaling \$209,384.30 were made, and reconciled withdrawals amounted to \$402,233.72. After accounting for all transactions, the ending balance in the checking account is \$312,213.27.

Craig Nelson presented the Treasurer's Report #875. Steve Colvin moved to approve Treasurer's Report #875. Phil Dart seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Supervisor Reports:**

**Phil Dart** – Phil shared that he had received significant rain and snow. Ground conditions remain wet, and pond levels continue to be low.

**Steve Colvin** – Steve shared that conditions have been warm and pleasant. This morning, temperatures reached 70 degrees before a brief hailstorm moved through.

**Jerry Asmussen** – Jerry shared that the cheatgrass crop failed, and bluegrass has since moved in.

#### **Associate Supervisor Reports:**

**Ivan Oberg** – Ivan shared that he recently returned from Mexico after spending a month there.

#### **Staff Reports:**

Craig announced efforts to gather agricultural stories for use in Conservation Celebration. He encouraged reaching out to friends and neighbors in Okanogan County to share their experiences and highlight the importance of agriculture in the community.

Craig also shared that the Local Work Group meeting in Chelan will be held at 6:00 p.m., and Jack will be attending.

Craig reported that he has signed a contract with the Colville Reservation Conservation District for biochar work, and another contract with Fonseca for chipping services. Additionally, Craig shared that he received an email requesting an interview regarding drought conditions and their impacts.

He also noted that the Range Planner position begins on April 27<sup>th</sup>. While interviews are underway for the Agriculture Lead position.

Finally, he shared that a meeting will be held in Mazama to discuss recent flooding, with the goal of developing a plan of action. Discussions include coordinating with DNR for potential funding to support the proposed plan, including rebuilding old channels and assessing water flow pathways.

### **NRCS Report**

Celeste Acord – Celeste shared updates related to several conservation programs and funding opportunities. She noted that there are ongoing considerations through FSA related to drought conditions, which may allow for certain livestock-related water system needs to be eligible. She encouraged coordination with FSA as appropriate when these conditions apply. She also noted that assistance may be available for water hauling through cost-share programs.

She provided an update on the Local Work Group, emphasizing that participation helps direct funding priorities. The meeting includes agencies, nonprofits, and producers as part of an open priority-setting process and will be held Thursday in Chelan.

Celeste also noted that there are upcoming conservation program deadlines and that selections are expected to follow the application period. She briefly referenced a whole-operation conservation program that provides incentive-based support and differs in scope from other program options. She also mentioned that general sign-up opportunities for land conservation programs are available, with additional options expected to open focused on specific land uses.

Finally, she referenced the Grassland CRP (GRP), noting that it follows standard rental rate and ranking processes that include environmental considerations, with some recent updates.

### **Partner Reports**

There were no partner reports.

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

There were no contacts to review or approve.

**Old Business:**

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

**Conservation Celebration** – Emmy shared that the Conservation Celebration will begin at 5:00 p.m. on April 29th, with approximately 100 RSVPs received to date. She also reminded board members to complete their bios using the link that was emailed to them.

**New Business:**

**Public Comment** – Renee Bretz and Tami Tatom, board members of All4Paws Okanogan, shared the organization’s mission as a nonprofit, foster-based dog rescue in Okanogan County, Washington, providing safe and loving care and enrichment for dogs in crisis while they await placement in permanent homes. They offer adoption, fostering, and crisis intervention services.

They also shared their vision to nurture, facilitate, and celebrate the bond between humans and canines within the community through compassion, education, advocacy, and affordable services. They noted an upcoming event, *Wine & Dine for Canines*, scheduled for July 26, 2026.

**WACD Area Meeting** – Craig shared Okanogan CD is to host the WACD Area Meeting. It is scheduled to occur on October 20, 2026 – venue still to be determined.

**Board Governance Kickoff** – Craig outlined several items for discussion at the April board meeting related to governance and upcoming work planning. He presented a proposed timeline and work topics, noting it remains flexible.

He requested board members review the report from Sarah Moorehead following the December 2025 work session, as it informs the current workplan.

He also introduced a discussion on two governance models used by the board, with the goal of clarifying roles and improving consistency.

Finally, he provided an update on a developing decision matrix, noting it will be reviewed in more detail at the April meeting, with possible action expected at a later date.

No action was recommended.

Jerry Asmussen adjourned the meeting at 7:16 PM.

