



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: December 6, 2022; Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogan Conservation District Office, Okanogan, WA and
Remotely via Microsoft Teams
FROM: Cassandra Lange, Administrative Assistant

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, District Chair	Chevelle Yeckel, Water Quality & Riparian Planner
Albert Roberts, District Auditor	Aaron Wold, Range Planner Lead
Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor	Dylan Streeter, Wildfire Resiliency & Recovery Planner
Bob Clark, Associate Supervisor (Phone)	Eli Loftis, Wildfire & Community Resilience Lead
Steve Colvin, Member	Emmy Engle, Communication & Outreach Specialist
Lorah Super, Member	Jordana Ellis, Irrigation Planner
Craig Nelson, Executive Director	Cassandra Lange, Administrative Assistant
Becky Drenner, Finance Director	Mike Baden, WSCC
Kim Kogler, Grants & Contracts Director (Phone)	Sarah Troutman, NRCS

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.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Agenda Approval: Albert Roberts moved to approve the agenda as amended. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Steve Colvin moved to approve the November 1, 2022 board meeting minutes as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #835, which covers the checking account activity from November 2, 2022 to December 6, 2022, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval, the following checks/payroll direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 12043 - 12067 totaling \$79,099.72.

Three payroll direct withdrawals – numbers ACH4355 – ACH4387 - totaling \$59,111.72.

Electronic payments – numbers EFT3118 – EFT3136 totaling \$35,963.64.

Deposits totaling \$99,491.54 were made.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #835 as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Albert Roberts – Albert reported that calving started, and it has been warm enough that he did not have to use a propane torch to start the tractor. Albert added he attended the WACD annual meeting and that it was nice to be in-person instead of remote.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan did not have anything to report.

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry was not present.

Steve Colvin – Steve reported that it is cold outside, and it snowed before they were able to finish grape harvest. Steve added he attended the WACD annual conference and thought it was a well-run meeting. Steve had to leave the conference early due to negligent house sitters.

Lorah Super – Lorah reported that while it snowed a lot in November, she was out of the country in southeast Asia. Lorah took notes about conservation practices in Asia and looks forward to sharing them at a future board meeting. Lorah added she is glad she harvested her crops before the snow hit.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

Bob reported that he did not like the early snow fall as it caused a lot of damage to his backyard and asked if anyone had recommendations on a tree removal service.

Staff Reports:

Craig reported that he had not received the draft letter from the Department of Ecology for the water bank application, but he plans on calling the grant manager in the coming days to get the information. Craig noted that he needed to have a meeting with Lorah regarding the additional water bank holder, as the holder wants to make a change in the contract. Craig brought up that there are potentially three water banks that could be in the district's possession in 2023. Craig added that Emmy has been contacted by the watershed council, and they want the district to present something at a Methow Watershed Council conference in February. Craig added that he is collaborating with Emmy to update the water bank page on the district's website.

Craig went on to say the WACD annual meeting went great and noted that during lunch there were no speakers which enabled people to talk and connect when otherwise they might not have gotten a chance. Craig acknowledged that resolutions went well, and the auction raised over six thousand dollars for the Washington State Envirothon. Craig mentioned that the district was working to reallocate Title III funding to try and spend it out, as most of the budget was for a contract with Team Rubicon that did not work out.

Becky reported that she is coming back to work slowly as she had surgery a few weeks ago, and she extended a thank you to all the district staff for taking care of things while she was gone. Becky added that there are a few grants closing this month, and there may be money turned back due to the unusual year with staff leaving and new staff coming on.

Chevelle reported that she was handed a Salmon Recovery Board grant after Amy's departure. Chevelle is working with Kim and Craig to make sure that grant deliverables are met. Chevelle added that she took an unconscious bias training, and as an individual who serves the community

with a consideration to landowner values, she is trying to get more familiar with agriculture users. Chevelle asked the board if they knew of anyone who would be interested in having her shadow them for a day so she could gain an understanding of what agriculture users go through.

Eli reported that he went with Dylan and Emmy to that Okanogan River Airshed Partnership meeting, which was very productive. Eli presented on the School Garden and Chipping Events, which led to the discussion of hosting chipping events in Nespelem and Grand Coulee.

Jordana reported that Chevelle informed her about the FSA tree assistance program which enables orchardists to receive assistance if they meet specified criteria.

Review, Approve and Sign Contracts and Conservation Plans

Okanogan County Water Bank Grant Agreement – Craig informed that the district would receive a draft offer letter for the Okanogan County Water Bank grant from the Department of Ecology. The district will soon receive a draft agreement to begin negotiations of the final contract for the project. Craig added that it will take some back and forth between the district and Ecology, but he would like to get the contract signed and in effect as soon as possible. Lorah Super moved to authorize the water bank committee to negotiate and sign the grant agreement with the Washington Department of Ecology. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Aspect Consulting Contract Change – Craig reported that the district had a contract with Aspect Consulting to assist with development of the Okanogan County Water Bank and acquisition of a water right. The work they were contracted to perform completed on June 30, 2022. Aspect Consulting has continued to participate in limited meetings and discussions with Ecology, Okanogan County, and others as requested technical advisors on the current water bank process. Aspect Consulting has done that work without a contract to reimburse them for costs. Lorah Super moved to approve the contract change and authorize Craig to sign the Aspect Consulting contract amendment up to \$15,000.00. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Seeking Funds for CCC Pipeline Project – Jordana reported that the Chewuch Canal Company is seeking to pipe the remaining portion of their water delivery system. The project would pipe six miles of irrigation ditch from the diversion point on Chewuch River to the connection of the existing pipe system and a back flow section that facilitates the fill of Pearrygin Lake. The project requires more funding than the irrigation efficiencies budget can currently, and for the next two years, accommodate. The funds will need to be allocated by an amendment to the budget, which would be approved by legislature. This will require district staff and the Chewuch Canal Company to request funding from the legislature for the piping project materials, instillation, engineering design, and cultural resources review. Jordana asked the board for their position on this, and due to the scope and severity, the board wanted more time to research and discuss the topic. The topic will be revisited at the January meeting.

Ellemehan Wildlife Area Watering Facility – Aaron reported that Ray Dagnon has a 1,400 acre grazing lease on the Ellemehan Wildlife Area. Ray runs 120 pairs of cattle on the divided pasture from June until the first snow. There is only one water source within each pasture, but the water availability is the limiting factor for optimal grazing. There is an ephemeral creek that

is degraded due to heavy use. The proposed project is an exclusion fence with a watering facility, with water supplied from an existing spring box. The watering facility would include a solar pump, livestock pipeline, heavy-use area, and a trough. The wildlife friendly fence would be around 200 feet and connect to an existing fence to fully exclude the ephemeral creek from cattle. Aaron requested the board to approve the use of up to \$7,364.44 of NRI funding for the 50/50 cost-share agreement to address natural resource concerns on Ray Dagnon's grazing lease in the Ellemehan Wildlife Area and to authorize Craig Nelson to sign the CPDS cost-share contract. Albert commented that the five-foot t-posts that were included in the budget might not be tall enough, and Aaron added that he would make sure the t-posts are par with NRCS standards. Albert Roberts moved to approve the use of up to \$7,364.44 of NRI funding for the 50/50 cost-share agreement to address natural resource concerns on Ray Dagnon's grazing lease in the Ellemehan Wildlife Area and to authorize Craig Nelson to sign the CPDS cost-share contract. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Carroll Purchase Service Contract Agreement – Eli reported that to facilitate continued work on the DNR FAC Pilot program, staff have proposed contracting Dr. Matt Carrol, professor emeritus at Washington State University, to code or analyze 17 transcripts from interviews conducted in 2020. The data quality is being assessed to decide what level of analysis is necessary and practical. Once this has been determined, Dr. Carroll would provide OCD and DNR with a report summarizing significant themes and other takeaways that will be used to guide community meetings in the Methow Valley in February 2022. Lorah Super moved to approve Craig to sign the professional services contract with Dr. Matt Carrol, professor emeritus. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

NRCS Report

Sarah Troutman was present and informed that twenty-five EQUIP 2023 applications were received in Okanogan County. There were only four CSP Classic 2023 applications received, which is a shocking decrease from previous years. Sarah added that there is a lot of opportunity for CSP for smaller farmers/ranchers. CRP plans are in full swing with over 50,000 acres that will be worked on this summer. Sarah went to say that several employees are completing their certified planner requirements, including Aaron.

Partner Reports

Mike reported that WACD supported the conservation commissions' legislature regarding removing the cap on rates and charges. Mike added that he was on a panel for DNR to provide input to their pass-through programs. The district should be hearing about the Sustainable Farms and Fields grant soon. Mike also said he had been completing bidding and contract training.

Old Business:

Water Bank Update – Craig reported that the district has not received the draft letter from the Department of Ecology for the water bank application and will call the grant manager to get an update. Craig added he needed to have a meeting with Lorah regarding the additional water bank holder, as they want to make changes to their contract. There are potentially three water banks that could be in the district's possession in 2023.

New Business:

2023 Final Budget – Becky presented the final 2023 budget for board approval. Albert Roberts moved to approve the 2023 final budget. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Summary of Motions

Albert Roberts moved to approve the agenda as amended. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve the November 1, 2022 board meeting minutes as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer’s Report #835. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.


Lorah Super moved to authorize the water bank committee to negotiate and sign the grant agreement with the Washington Department of Ecology. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the contract change and authorize Craig to sign the Aspect Consulting contract amendment up to \$15,000.00. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the use of up to \$7,364.44 of NRI funding for the 50/50 cost-share agreement to address natural resource concerns on Ray Dagnon’s grazing lease in the Ellemehan Wildlife Area and to authorize Craig Nelson to sign the CPDS cost-share contract. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve Craig to sign the professional services contract with Dr. Matt Carrol, professor emeritus. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the 2023 final budget. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.


Ivan Oberg _____ Date
Chair


Becky Drenner _____ Date
Finance Director