



# Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

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**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** August 4, 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting  
**LOCATION:** Teleconference – (509) 422-0855, ext. 7  
**FROM:** Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant

**PRESENT:**

Ivan Oberg, District Chair

Albert Roberts, District Auditor

Lorah Super, Member

Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor

Craig Nelson, Executive Director

Becky Drenner, Finance Director

Amy Martin, Conservation Director

Mindy Untalan, Conservation Planner

Ricardo Angel, Natural Resources Technician

Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant

Bob Clark, Special Project Assistant

Mike Baden, WSCC

Stacy Shutts, Okanogan Land Trust

**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:** Lorah Super moved to approve the agenda as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Lorah Super moved to approve the July 7, 2020 board meeting minutes as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #807,** which covers the checking account activity from July 8, 2020 to August 4, 2020, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following checks/payroll direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 11642 – 11654 totaling \$26,018.80.

Payroll direct withdrawal - numbers ACH3803 – ACH3824 totaling \$29,722.60.

Electronic payments - numbers EFT2736 – EFT2749 totaling \$23,009.88.

Deposits totaling \$54,359.23 were made.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #807. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Supervisor Reports:**

**Ivan Oberg** – Ivan reported that he and a friend were talking, and the friend asked him what his favorite grass was. So, then the question became, are we talking native or planted grasses? Ivan went on to say that he gave his friend his standard answer of a good grass that the cows will eat.

But, after thinking about it a while, Ivan concluded that blue bunch wheat grass is a good grass. He asked what the other supervisor's favorite grass was.

**Albert Roberts** – Albert reported that his favorite grass is whatever will grow and what the cows will eat. Otherwise, he has been working on second cutting. Water is disappearing out of the springs but there are still a couple that are running. Overall, the soil is holding up, but everything on the surface is drying out.

**Lorah Super** – Lorah reported that her favorite grass, at the moment, is red top grass because it is so pretty blowing in the wind. The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative had a quarterly meeting Wednesday, August 5 via Zoom to discuss the Mission amicus brief. The Alliance for the Wild Rockies has filed their brief. The District, and those joining the umbrella brief, are still waiting for the attorneys to write the brief, giving the District time to review it before it is filed. Lorah informed there is a DNR Pilot project, the 1784 Pilot, which she and staff have been involved in. There is a public Zoom meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup> to roll out the pilot. Lastly, Lorah commented that fires have gotten close, but everyone has stayed safe.

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

No associate supervisors were present.

#### **Staff Report:**

Craig reported that the District received a report of an NRCS contractor who has a family member that tested positive for COVID-19 and the contractor had been in the building recently. The building was deep cleaned starting July 31 and staff returned to work on Monday, August 3. Staff have subsequently learned the contractor who was in the building had a negative test result come back.

Amy attended a fire cooperators meeting in Tonasket for the Anglin and Green Fires. Staff started receiving updates directly from the incident management team which was nice (though somewhat like drinking from a fire hose). Due to restrictive funding the District is not doing active outreach but if someone contacts the District, staff will do what they can to conduct a site visit and get landowners some technical assistance and direction on how to find other resources.

Other than that, Craig reported he enjoyed a couple weeks off, so he will be taking next week off as well. Craig went on to say that there is a Watershed Planning Unit meeting next week. There is a plan drafted and, while overall it looks good, there are still a few grumblings about indoor and outdoor water use types being combined because indoor use is miniscule in comparison to outdoor use for lawns and gardens.

Amy reported that Craig, Mindy and her have a meeting with Methow Ranger District staff to keep up the conversation for partnering on projects for home hardening as well as some culvert projects. Additionally, Kirsten and Amy are starting to talk about how to make sure cost share programs can be equitable and acceptable to everyone in the community, particularly with regards to home risk reduction contracts. They are discussing ways to partner with other organizations to ensure everyone in the surrounding communities has access to and can be served by the District's programs.

Becky reported that grants were successfully closed out last month and there were only a few that the District did not spend out completely. Those included task order TP4 and WVC. There were several WVC events that got cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Likewise, TP4 could not be completed because District staff could not get where they needed to be due to COVID-19. Becky and Craig have begun FY21 budget discussions.

Ricardo reported that he has been working with Stina Booth, an organic orchardist between Twisp and Carlton. Work is being conducted on pollinator habitats with VSP cost share funding on her property. The goal is to get a contract and plan by the next board meeting.

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

**John and Nancy Kirner Joint Chiefs Cost-Share** – The Kirner’s will be doing forest thinning, pruning, slash chipping, and brush removal around their home. They are neighbors with a group of landowners on Cassal Road who have already been approved for cost-share projects at previous board meetings to do similar work. The purpose for their project is forest health and creating defensible space around the home. The work proposed will help neighboring properties by creating canopy gaps to slow possible fire progression throughout the neighborhood. The total project cost is \$2,100.00 and staff asked for 75% reimbursement, which is \$1,575.00. Staff requested approval for Craig or Ivan to sign the cost-share agreement. Lorah asked if everyone in the community was getting the same percentage of cost share. Mindy affirmed the landowners were all getting the same cost share. Albert added that all these landowners doing this work is good to help create defensible spaces. Lorah Super moved to approve the Joint Chiefs Kirner cost-share at 75% reimbursement, and authorized Craig or Ivan to sign the agreement. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**UCSRB SOWAT Facilitation Contract** – This is the annual contract for Amy to facilitate the monthly Similkameen-Okanogan Watershed Action Team meetings. The contract is for \$4,000. Albert Roberts moved to approve the annual SOWAT Facilitation Contract, authorizing Ivan Oberg to sign the contract. Lorah Super seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

### **NRCS Report**

Sarah Troutman was not present but submitted a written report. Craig reported on her behalf that she appreciated the building cooperation during the recent potential COVID-19 exposure. NRCS will continue phasing staff back into the office but will not be allowing customers back in the building. July has been a busy month for NRCS in Okanogan County with obligated, or pending obligation, contracts totaling 12 EQIP contracts for \$274,663 and 2 CSP contracts for \$211,671.

### **Partner Reports**

Mike Baden reported that the Commission is neck deep in budget related stuff. He stated that everyone is still in a holding pattern as far as what the legislature is going to do about this fiscal year, though there is no expectation of any special sessions planned before regular session resumes. There has been much discussion about the 15% cut that the Commission has absorbed so far, with the next big discussion centered on putting together a plan for the next biennium. Mike informed there was a webinar held last week that went over possible scenarios and numbers, which will be addressed at a special Commission meeting next week. Mike mentioned the Commission is looking at best- and worst-case scenarios based on current information, which

is ever-changing. He added there is a great emphasis being placed on keeping the conservation community staff intact. Ultimately there will likely be some impact on the implementation grant, but the Commission is looking at different scenarios, which would provide between \$81,000 and \$88,000 per year, including Basic Allocation.

Mike concluded by informing there will be an announcement sent out Wednesday, August 5, regarding a webinar with Fish and Wildlife. They will present their strategic plan to districts and provide an opportunity for districts to voice concerns or comments.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Old Business:**

**Review Executive Director Actions Taken Under Resolution 2020-02** – No actions were taken under this executive order.

**Other** – There was no other old business.

**New Business:**

**Resolution 2020-03 Time Extension for Resolution 2020-03** – This Resolution extends the expiration date of Resolution 2020-02 to January 15, 2021 or until the governor’s Stay Home Stay Healthy proclamation ends, whichever comes first. Ivan raised the question about how auditors may view the Resolution and Craig responded it would be viewed as a continuation of governmental activities and would not be even a blip on the auditor’s radar. Mike Baden weighed in and was in full agreement that the goal of the Resolution is to maintain the systems in place to safeguard the public funds. Lorah Super moved to approve Resolution 2020-03. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Coordinated Weed Management Area MOU** – This is a renewal of an existing aquatic weed management agreement among 35 federal, tribal, state, local, and Canadian agencies working to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The agreement advocates for inter-agency communication, discussion, alerts, and training on the management of aquatic invasive species. Staff recommended the board approve the MOU and authorize Craig to sign it as the principal representative of the Okanogan Conservation District. Albert Roberts moved to approve the Coordinated Weed Management Area MOU and to authorize Craig to sign it. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Associate Supervisor Request-Bob Clark** – Bob resigned as an Associate Supervisor last winter to engage in part time employment with the District as a Special Project Assistant, where he looked through and gathered several potential projects that have made it into the Okanogan Watershed Plan. The District does not currently have work for him but would like to keep him engaged with District activities Bob requested to be reinstated as an Associate Supervisor. Albert Roberts moved to approve Bob Clark’s request to return in the capacity of Associate Supervisor. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 6:42 PM.

Summary of Motions

Lorah Super moved to approve the agenda as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the July 7, 2020 board meeting minutes as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #807. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.


Lorah Super moved to approve the Joint Chiefs Kirner cost-share at 75% reimbursement, allowing Craig or Ivan to sign the agreement. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.


Albert Roberts moved to approve the annual SOWAT Facilitation Contract, authorizing Ivan Oberg to sign the contract. Lorah Super seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve Resolution 2020-03. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the Coordinated Weed Management Area MOU and to authorize Craig to sign it. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Bob Clark's request to return in the capacity of Associate Supervisor. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

 9/1/20  
Ivan Oberg                                  Date  
Chair

 9/1/20  
Becky Drenner                              Date  
Finance Director