



# Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

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**TO:** The Record  
**SUBJECT:** February 1, 2024; Board of Supervisors Meeting  
**LOCATION:** Okanogan Conservation District Office, Okanogan, WA and  
Remotely via Microsoft Teams and Teleconference  
**FROM:** Cassandra Lange-Predoehl, Administrative Assistant

**PRESENT:**

Lorah Super, Chair	Cassandra Lange-Predoehl, Admin. Assistant
Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair	Dylan Streeter, Wildfire Resiliency & Recovery Planner
Phillip Dart, Supervisor	Eli Loftis, Wildfire Community & Resiliency Lead
Edd Townsend, Supervisor	Emmy Engle, Communication & Outreach Specialist
Dale Swedberg, Associate Supervisor	Emily Bustamante, Education Specialist
Bob Clark, Associate Supervisor	Taylor George, VSP Coordinator
Craig Nelson, Executive Director	Brant Rosenthal Smith, Science Data & Mon. Coord.
Becky Drenner, Finance Director	Ginger Wireman, Department of Ecology

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

**Agenda Approval:** Phillip Dart moved to approve the agenda as amended. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Ginger Wireman from the Department of Ecology introduced herself as the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Lead in Watersheds 46-50 in North Central Washington before exiting to attend a different board meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the January 4, 2024, board meeting minutes as amended. Phillip Dart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report #849,** which covers the checking account activity from January 5, 2024, to February 1, 2024, inclusive, was presented for the Board's approval. The following checks/payroll/direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment: Checks – number 12338 – 12360 totaling \$43,325.39. Becky noted that previous check numbers 11053, 11606, 11757, and 11831 were voided, and she will be implementing more frequent check reviews.

One payroll direct withdrawal – numbers ACH4702 – ACH4714 totaling \$25,263.62.

Electronic payments – numbers EFT3348 – EFT3362 totaling \$30,350.49.

Deposits totaling \$160,553.95 were made.

Becky added that a transfer of \$14,500.00 from the Checking account to the Savings account was made. The transfer was part of the 2023 Rates and Charges budget allocation.

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve Treasurer's Report #849 as presented. Phillip Dart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Supervisor Reports:**

**Jerry Asmussen** – Jerry reported that winter appeared to last for ten days. He noted that the cherry crop would be significantly affected, with an anticipated 80% loss due to the cold snaps on the north side of the blocks.

**Steve Colvin** – Steve was not present.

**Lorah Super** – Lorah reported that the Forest Health Collaborative hired a consultant to come up with recommendations on how the Collaborative could operate in the future. Lorah has also been assisting with efforts to put together a meeting with the Department of Ecology to discuss the application for the Drought Planning Grant. Lorah ended by saying that Legislative Day was good, and she and other staff had a nice visit with 7<sup>th</sup> District Legislators.

**Edd Townsend** – Edd reported that there is ample winter moisture. He mentioned he will be attending the Methow Conservancy's Agricultural Forum, which will feature two different breakout sessions. The first session will cover agency assistance and individual initiatives, providing an overview of sustainable farming practices. The second session will focus on virtual fencing.

**Phillip Dart** – Phillip reported that he recently visited Idaho to spend time with family. He noted that the winter has had unusual weather conditions.

### **Associate Supervisor Reports:**

**Randy Kelley** – Randy was not present.

**Bob Clark** – Bob reported that he currently serves as the assistant board director for Columbiana. Bob added that their primary goal is to foster collaboration with organizations such as the district and the Methow Valley Citizens Council.

**Dale Swedberg** – Dale reported that he had not attended a meeting in quiet awhile due to retirement, inheriting a family farm, and visiting family.

### **Staff Reports:**

Craig reported that Legislative Day was light on meetings but overall successful. He along with Eli, Emmy, Lorah met with legislators. They also had the opportunity to meet with other staff and supervisors from different districts. Craig added that there is an up-coming in-person statewide Voluntary Stewardship Program meeting the following week that himself, Brant, and Taylor will be attending. Craig went on to give an update on drought planning as Jordana was not present at the meeting. Jordana proposed the idea of developing an Okanogan County Drought Plan, and since then, meetings have been scheduled to discuss the plan with different organizations and individuals.

Emmy reported that she created the 2023 Report of Accomplishments. Emmy added that she learned a lot while attending Legislative Day and was glad she could attend.

Eli reported that he enjoyed Legislative Day. Eli continued by mentioning the successful kickoff of the Community Wildfire Projection Plan (CWPP) meeting, which had 48 participants in attendance. The meetings are set to continue every other week.

Becky reported that the Internal Revenue Service changed policies for annual taxes, now mandating online submission for more than ten documents. She mentioned using a third-party system for creating medical coverage forms. Becky added that she is shifting her focus to working on the upcoming election and planning the staff retreat.

Brant reported that he is currently focused on developing the monitoring plan and will have it submitted by June 30, 2024.

Taylor invited all board members to join the Voluntary Stewardship Program email group. Taylor added that two Voluntary Stewardship Work Group members were appointed by the Okanogan County Commissioners.

#### **NRCS Report**

A report from Sarah Troutman was included in the board documents. Craig invited everyone to attend the upcoming Local Work Group Meeting on February 21 at the Chelan School District Office, starting at 4:00 PM.

#### **Partner Reports**

No partners were present.

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

**School Garden Travel Authorization** – Emily reported that the district has received a NACD UAC grant to fund Okanogan County school garden educators' attendance at the Growing School Gardens Summit in San Diego, California, scheduled from March 15-18, 2024. The district covered the costs, either partially or in full, for sixteen educators, including two district staff members, to participate in this training opportunity. The objective of the training is to strengthen partnerships between the district and the school garden staff, providing them with valuable insights into various school garden topics. Phillip Dart moved to authorize the funding of registration, airfare, ground transportation, lodging, per diem, and other eligible incidental expenses for two employees to attend the Growing School Gardens Summit. Edd Townsend seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**UCSRB Contract: Engaging the Community through Education and Outreach** – Emily reported that the district will collaborate with a local high school to co-teach the water unit of a class. Additionally, the district will partner with students to organize a student-led educational community event, focusing on research conducted at Woody Island. The district plans to attend five community events to share information about water quality and salmon recovery and will also contribute articles to both the local newspaper and the district newsletter. Furthermore, staff



will host a county-wide community event featuring a screening of "A River Film," accompanied by a talk from a community member. Emily mentioned that the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) will provide \$25,000.00 to support these projects. The project period is scheduled from January 2024 to June 30, 2024. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Contract, and authorized Lorah Super to sign it. Edd Townsend seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**OCD/CAM Pass Through Contract** – Dylan reported that the district and Clean Air Methow (CAM) are joining forces to execute chipping events and yard waste clean-up days in the Methow Valley, utilizing funds from the district's Ecology Prevent Nonattainment Grant. The pass-through funding will cover salaries/benefits, supplies, goods and services, and travel, along with a 10% indirect rate of salaries/benefits, not exceeding a total of \$18,933.00. CAM will collaborate with Okanogan County Public Works Solid Waste Division to coordinate and implement twelve-yard waste disposal and chipping events at the Twisp Transfer Station, Town of Winthrop, and the Methow community. This initiative is set to run from January 1, 2024, to June 15, 2025. Phillip Dart moved to approve the Pass-Through Contract between the Okanogan Conservation District and Clean Air Methow and authorized Craig Nelson to sign it. Edd Townsend seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Lorah Super abstained from the vote.

**FH Home Hardening Incentive Agreement Approval** – Eli reported that the district is launching an incentive payment program through the Washington State Conservation Commission's Forest Health grant. Property owners who undergo a home risk assessment until June 2025 are eligible to receive an incentive payment for purchasing materials for various common home hardening practices. The payment will be \$250.00 per practice, except for gravel, which qualifies for a \$300.00 payment. To receive the payment, cooperators must sign an agreement to maintain the practice for its design life and provide a receipt and photographs of the practice installation. Edd Townsend moved to approve the Forest Health Home Hardening Incentive Agreement and authorized Craig Nelson to sign all Forest Health Home Hardening Incentive Payment Agreements as they are received and processed. Phillip Dart seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Ecology PNA Orchard Flailing Cost-Share Contracts** – Dylan reported that the Department of Ecology has granted the district \$100,000.00 as cost-share assistance for fruit growers to adopt flailing as an alternative to burning their pruning residual. The per-acre payment rate of \$115.00 is determined based on recommendations from the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program rates, specifically for practices 348 (Woody Residue Treatment), 386 (Field Operations to Reduce Emissions), and 660 (Tree Shrub Pruning). To ensure broad participation, there will be a cap of 100 acres per participant. Growers are required to track their hours spent on these projects using a Contributed Services Form. Phillip Dart moved to provide blanket approval for the Ecology PNA Orchard Flailing Cost-Share Contracts and authorize Craig Nelson to sign the contracts as they come in. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**Water Bank Update** – Craig reported that the water right that Barkely Irrigation Company wants to sell to the water bank is already in the state water trust, creating a complication for the Department of Ecology, as they are uncertain if they can purchase it under current legislation. The first water right the district was trying to purchase is currently pending due to the appraisal. Craig ended by adding that he had purchased two domain names for the water bank.

**DDT Remediation Project** – Craig reported that there was a meeting held in the beginning of January to discuss project details. Craig received a draft copy of the agreement from the Department of Ecology, and he is currently reviewing the document. Craig added that he is hoping he will have the agreement ready to be signed at the next board meeting.

**Conservation Celebration Committee** – Craig reported that Randy Kelley had to step down from the committee due to over volunteering. Craig and Emmy are now the remaining members. In a full committee meeting, Randy prepared a letter to the Okanogan County Fairgrounds manager to try and opt out of the security fee, which was accepted. The Dawg House will be the caterer for the event and meal tickets will be priced at \$30.00. Craig mentioned that setup can begin as early as 4 PM the day before the event. Craig and Emmy reviewed notes from last year, including feedback and drink options. Craig discussed the award nomination process and seat assignments. Dale suggested giving the awardees a heads-up, so they know what to expect at the event. Dale informed everyone that he had recently attended a Prescribed Fire Council meeting, and during the meeting, a staff member from the Department of Natural Resources told Dale if the district hired a keynote speaker to talk about prescribed burn associations, the Department would cover the speaker's fee. Craig went on to say the next committee meeting will focus on preparing for the keynote speaker, sending invitations, and finalizing award details.

**New Business:**

**Resolution 2024-01 – LGIP Authorization for Money Market Accounts** – Becky reported on two options for investment of district funds. She presented a detailed report on the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP), an investment option for public funds under the custody of the Washington State Treasurer. The LGIP Money Market Fund has a minimum transaction size of \$5,000.00, a monthly fee of 0.0058%, and the current daily yield of 5.4%. Additionally, a North Cascades Bank Certificate of Deposit offers a 4.75% yield for a 4-month term, with 3-month increments available. There are no administrative fees, and no penalties for early withdrawal. The board discussed the options at length. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve Resolution 2024-01, authorizing the investment in the Local Government Investment Pool, and granting authorization to sign Resolution 2024-01. The motion did not specify a limit amount. Phillip Dart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM.

**Summary of Motions**

Phillip Dart moved to approve the agenda as amended. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the January 4, 2024, board meeting minutes as amended. Phillip Dart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve Treasurer's Report #849 as presented. Phillip Dart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Phillip Dart moved to authorize the funding of registration, airfare, ground transportation, lodging, per diem, and other eligible incidental expenses for two employees to attend the Growing School Gardens Summit. Edd Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Contract, and authorized Lorah Super to sign it. Edd Townsend seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Phillip Dart moved to approve the Pass-Through Contract between the Okanogan Conservation District and Clean Air Methow and authorized Craig Nelson to sign it. Edd Townsend seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Lorah Super abstained from the vote.

Edd Townsend moved to approve the Forest Health Home Hardening Incentive Agreement and authorized Craig Nelson to sign all Forest Health Home Hardening Incentive Payment Agreements as they are received and processed. Phillip Dart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Phillip Dart moved to provide blanket approval for the Ecology PNA Orchard Flailing Cost-Share Contracts and authorize Craig Nelson to sign the contracts as they come in. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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 3/7/2024

Lorah Super  
Chair

 3/7/24

Cassandra Lange-Predoehl  
Administrative Assistant