



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

DRAFT

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: October 1, 2019 Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogan Conservation District office, Okanogan, WA
FROM: Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Craig Nelson, District Manager
Jerry Asmussen, Vice-Chair	Becky Drenner, Finance & Adm. Manager
Albert Roberts, District Auditor	Amy Martin, Conservation Planner
Lorah Super, Member	Kirsten Cook, Education & Outreach Director
Steve Colvin, Member	Mindy Untalan, Conservation Planner
Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor	Leslie Michel, Soil Scientist
Bob Clark, Associate Supervisor	Kim Kogler, Education Specialist
Sarah Troutman, NRCS	Jess McDaniel, Administrative Assistant
Donna Fouts, U.S. Forest Service	Joshua Read, U.S. Forest Service

Meeting Call to Order: Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Agenda Approval: Staff asked to add Wilson Cost-share Payment, Okanogan Institute Scoping Grant application, and Ecology Chipper Grant application to “Review, approve and sign contracts and conservation plans” and to remove OK. Co. PUD MOA for Save Water Save Energy Program from the same section. Staff also requested to add a WACD Resolution to Support Rangeland Fire Protection Districts to Old Business. Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the amended agenda as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Lorah Super moved to approve the September 5, 2019 board meeting minutes as amended. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report #797, which covers the checking account activity from September 6, 2019 to October 1, 2019, inclusive was presented for the Board’s approval. The following checks/payroll direct withdrawals/electronic payments were approved for payment:

Checks – numbers 11471 - 11489 totaling \$28,862.27.

Payroll direct withdrawal, including Allisa Carlson’s leave payout - numbers ACH3578 – ACH3590 totaling \$16,451.35.

Electronic payments - numbers EFT2589 – EFT2604 totaling \$26,683.78.

Deposits totaling \$50,553.79 were made.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer’s Report #797. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Lorah Super – Reported that the Methow Watershed Council has hosted some water education workshops for the local community. The workshops were a crash course on water management and water law. She spent some time with the Arid Lands Initiative, facilitating their annual planning meeting. They are interested in promoting grazing on the landscape as a management tool. Lorah recommends that the Conservation District stay involved in this program. She also reported that the Forest Health Collaborative has a steering meeting October 2nd.

Steve Colvin – Steve said we are not in a drought as measured by more than 8 inches of rain so far this year. Mosquito creek is flowing 1-2 gal a minute; it is a seasonal creek but has been flowing steadily for 18 months. The rain has interfered with his grapes because the grapes are full of water, making them too large. Harvest is approximately half way through.

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry followed up on last month's wolf sighting, having seen another come through his property. He mentioned the wolf mitigation program, stating that WSDA reduced the amount they awarded to recommended projects. Over the weekend they got about 6 inches of snow in two days, but it is gone now. There looks like a shortage of hay and forage this winter.

Albert Roberts - Albert reported he's still working on the third cutting of hay, but the rain has hindered his efforts. Cows are happy. He commented that he had the chance to sit down and watch the "Biggest Little Farm," a movie about a couple who takes a small plot of ground in California and revitalizes the soil, making it productive. He highly recommends it.

Ivan Oberg – He reported 3 inches of snow at their place near Havillah over the weekend. He stated that he doesn't remember ever having snow this early in the season.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

Bob Clark – Bob reported that he had nothing to report.

District Manager & Staff Report:

Craig Nelson reported he is still trying to reach applicant references for the Range Planner position. We have three good applicants that we just couldn't coalesce on as a group, but staff felt strong enough to consider all three until we know more from references. The difficulty is the applicants are or have most recently been doing intensive field work along with their references so catching them has been a challenge.

Craig stated that he has been participating in the WACD Annual Meeting organization calls and providing input into the types of programs they should have during the breakout sessions as well as recommending speakers. They are hoping to get a couple key legislators as well as the heads of several natural resource agencies to the meeting, which would be good to have and be able to interact with in hopes of partnering at the local level. Craig anticipates they will lean heavily on District Managers and staff to fill out the speaker's list.

Craig also reported that he just accepted a position on the NACD/NCDEA Professional Development Committee. This committee, comprised of District Managers from around the US, works to develop training programs, primarily at the NACD Annual Meeting, that improve the professional capacity of staff and in some cases CD supervisors.

Craig also accepted a re-appointment to the WACD Tribal Relations Committee. Craig was one of the original members but left the committee after a few months because of the wildfire recovery workload. They have wanted Craig back for awhile because Ferry and Okanogan CDs are the only CDs with a tribal/CD overlap in Washington State.

Kirsten reported there are three Wenatchee Valley College courses coming up in October. She gave the list of classes. The biggest concern is getting WVC to get the advertising out in a timely manner. Lorah asked Kirsten to send her copies of the materials so she can distribute among community members in the Methow.

Amy reported October 15th is the due date for the next Ecology grant application. The grant will focus on water quality monitoring at Palmer Lake, technical assistance and K-12 education programs.

Kim distributed a report on County Fair attendance at our booth, which she reported was up from the past two years, possibly due to counting several return visits from children. Jerry inquired about whether that tracked with the overall Fair attendance, which he had heard was up from last year. She added that the Garden and Science workshop went well, with 22 teachers from several schools across the county attending. It was a partnership with Classroom in Bloom and was a great experience; she hopes to do it again next year.

Becky reported that the 2020 budget has been progressing, having met with several staff members. She expects to have it ready for initial review next month. She and Jess have also been looking at OCD overhead expenses and income to get a better picture of the overall financial health of the District. She is going on vacation for a couple of weeks this month and when she returns her focus will be on supervisor elections.

Review, Approve and Sign Contracts and Conservation Plans

PE Grant Interdistrict Agreement – Craig presented the inter-local agreement to share the services of our cluster engineer, Ryan Roberts. This agreement has been in place for nearly a decade with little or no change in that time. Staff recommended approval and authorization for Ivan to sign the contract and to appoint Craig Nelson, and Amy Martin as his alternate, to the Professional Engineer Board of Directors. Lorah Super moved to approve the PE Grant Interdistrict Agreement, authorize Ivan to sign the agreement and appoint Craig Nelson to the Professional Engineer Board of Directors with Amy Martin as his alternate. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

UCSRB Professional Services Contract – Kim presented the contract which will fund additional K-12 education and outreach. This is a very similar contract to previous contracts we

have implemented. Staff recommended approval and authorization for Ivan to sign the contract. Steve Colvin moved to approve the contract and authorize Ivan to sign it to proceed. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Colville Confederated Tribes F&W Project Agreement – Amy presented the project to the board which includes riparian planting and bank stabilization activities on Omak Creek near Pascal Sherman. The project will include getting some of the students at the school involved as well. Unfortunately, the contract isn't ready but is anticipated soon. Staff recommended approval and authorization for Ivan or Craig to sign the landowner agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and authorize Craig to purchase riparian plant and upland shrub materials, and contracted planting services for the project up to \$10,000. Jerry Asmussen moved to authorize Craig to sign the landowner agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and authorization for Craig to purchase requisite vegetation, related planting materials, and contracted planting services for the project up to \$10,000. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Title III Grant Application – Mindy presented the staff proposal to apply for Title III funding to implement fuels reduction and education programs similar to what we have done for several years. Staff recommended the board authorize staff to apply for these funds. Albert Roberts moved to authorize staff to submit a grant application for Title III funds. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Wilson Cost-share Payment – Mindy presented the activities completed to date for the Wilson Phase I project. This is the forest fuels reduction project which is part of our Joint Chiefs contract with DNR. Mindy recommended that we pay Albert Wilson a partial cost share reimbursement totaling \$21,071.35. This will leave \$3,597.34 for the remaining balance on his cost-share contract which will expire December 31, 2020. Lorah Super moved to approve the partial payment for Albert Wilson. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Okanogan Institute Scoping Grant – Kirsten presented a proposal to the board requesting approval to submit a \$10,000 grant application from the Charlotte Martin Foundation to fund further outreach and project development for the Okanogan Institute, which is an idea to meld local natural resource personnel's knowledge with university researchers and the public's desire to learn more about natural resources. Steve Colvin moved to approve the submission of the grant application. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ecology Chipper Grant – Mindy presented an option to apply for up to \$50,000 of Washington Department of Ecology funding for the purpose of purchasing a commercial chipper and to potentially pay for staff time to operate the chipper. The purpose of the grant is to reduce emissions from burning natural vegetation. Staff will determine the potential use by local partners such as fire districts, cities, and possibly schools. Staff also determine how the chipper will be operated, by whom, and if there is a way to charge for maintenance costs. Discussion centered on the need for a business plan for ownership and operation with special consideration to liability costs associated with the equipment. Lorah Super moved to authorize staff to move

forward only if all questions identified and discussed are answered favorably for the District. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

NRCS Report

Sarah Troutman reported today is the first day of the new fiscal year. They are operating under a continuing resolution and waiting for final rules on some of the 2019 programs. They are writing conservation plans currently, which she anticipates will go straight to contract when the farm bill is approved. NRCS will be largely absent from the WACD annual meeting because District Conservationists will be attending mandatory training. Sarah will be briefly be taking leave in October and Chris Wright in Wenatchee will be her stand in. Washington State is turning things around, where cooperators with RMS plans will likely be first in line for cost-share contracts. Erin Kaczmarczyk, Columbia Basin District Conservationist, will be the acting Central Area Conservationist while they seek a replacement for Alan McBee, who has moved on to another job. Finally, Sarah mentioned there is a task order in place for training Ricardo Angel so he can then proceed with task orders on his own.

Partner Reports

Donna Fouts, Range Planner with the USDA Forest Service Tonasket Ranger District, reported that they have some controlled burns planned in the Bailey Mountain and Mutton Creek areas. Kristin Bale is the new Forest Supervisor for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Cattle are just coming off the forest now, likely due to the snow driving them down. Joshua Read, also with the U.S. Forest Service, reported that Kathy Johnson is the new ranger for the Tonasket District; she has worked throughout the Northwest. He also reported that the Mt. Hull restoration project has been signed and they are hoping to implement things in the 2020 calendar year. Matt Avery is the new timber professional with the Tonasket Ranger District.

Public Comments:

There was no public comment.

Old Business:

WACD Resolution Hydraulic Permit Application Process – Craig explained that he would like to recommend the board consider a resolution that supports streamlining the WDFW HPA permit process for conservation districts. The resolution presented speaks specifically to legislation that almost passed in 2019 and the hope is we can get it approved in 2020. This legislation would put us on par with Fish and Wildlife as well as regional fisheries groups and others who have the fast track for permitting. Albert Roberts moved to approve the resolution. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

WACD Resolution to Support Commission Fire Adapted Funding Request – Craig presented the resolution that calls for WACD to support the supplemental budget request by the Washington State Conservation Commission to fund Districts to implement practices that reduce wildfire risk and severity. Steve Colvin moved to approve the resolution. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

WACD Resolution to Oppose Out of Basin Water Transfers – Craig presented the resolution that stemmed from a conversation he and Lorah Super had with Mary McRea about the impacts

of water rights being transferred out of their originating basin. This issue already has some legislative interest. Concern is centered on transferring agriculture water use rights to other-use rights. Albert Roberts moved to approve the resolution. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

WACD Resolution to Support Rangeland Fire Protection Districts – Craig presented the resolution that Lorah Super brought up at the September board meeting. This resolution would direct WACD to support legislation that authorizes and supports rangeland fire protection districts in Washington State. Lorah Super moved to approve the resolution. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Barkley Ditch – Irrigation Efficiencies Funding – Leslie Michel presented the project to the board. The Barkley Ditch Company and Trout Unlimited have been working for several years to pipe the ditch and make other system improvements. They have run into some significant funding shortfalls as bids have come back higher than engineer estimates. They are seeking up to \$950,000 from the Irrigation Efficiencies program. Okanogan CD staff have been in negotiation with Trout Unlimited staff, who are taking the lead on the project, to gather the information needed to get board approval, apply for the actual funding, and develop an appropriate contract. We are looking for board authorization for staff to negotiate the contract and secure funding from the Washington Conservation Commission Irrigation Efficiencies program pending submittal of required information including, but not limited to, specific practices to be funded, project budget, and a fully completed and signed application by the Barkley Ditch Company. Lorah Super moved to direct staff to collect specific information on what the money is being spent on, whether other entities will sign off on the project, and to inform the property owner that the District requires a lien to be placed on their parcel, requiring the funds be repaid if the items cost-shared are not maintained. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Other – There was no other old business.

New Business:

NACD Annual Meeting Attendance – Craig stated he would like to attend NACD this coming February in Las Vegas. The registration cost is approximately \$550. He would need approval to register and incur travel expenses for 4 days of meetings in February. Travel expenses including airfare, hotel, and meals should be about \$1,500. Craig would like to attend to learn more from other Districts around the country and their programs. He may also be assisting with a presentation if he is available to attend. Steve Colvin moved to approve Craig's registration and travel to the 2020 NACD Annual Meeting. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM.

Summary of Motions

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the amended agenda as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the September 5, 2019 board meeting minutes as amended. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #797. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the PE Grant Interdistrict Agreement, authorize Ivan to sign the agreement and appoint Craig Nelson to the Professional Engineer Board of Directors with Amy Martin as his alternate. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve the UCSRB Professional Services contract and authorize Ivan to sign it to proceed. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Asmussen moved to authorize Craig to sign the landowner agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and authorization for Craig to purchase requisite materials and services for the project up to \$10,000. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to authorize staff to submit a grant application for Title III funds. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the partial payment for Albert Wilson's cost-share. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve the submission of the Okanogan Institute Scoping grant application. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to authorize staff to move forward with the grant-funded purchase of a chipper only if all questions identified and discussed are answered favorably for the District. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the Hydraulic Permit Application Process resolution. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve the resolution to support commission fire adapted funding. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the resolution to oppose out of basin water transfers. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

