

**OKAONGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION 26 - 2021**

*A resolution establishing the Tri-County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board
for Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties*

WHEREAS, September 8, 1969 Okanogan County adopted the provision of the Horticultural Pest and Disease Board act passed by the Legislature under public law chapter 113-laws of 1969 which later became RCW 15.09; and

WHEREAS, Okanogan County established staffing and programs to implement and respond to various statutory requirements pursuant to Chapter 15.09 RCW and RCW 17.12, and

WHEREAS, Okanogan County recognizes the economic importance of the tree fruit industry, and

WHEREAS, Okanogan County wishes to continue to implement the statutory requirements pursuant to Chapter 15.09 RCW but currently needs assistance with operation of its horticultural pest and disease programs and enforcement actions, and

WHEREAS, Chelan County and Douglas County previously created the joint Chelan-Douglas Horticultural Pest and Disease Board, with Chelan County having lead agency status, and

WHEREAS RCW 15.09.055 states:

“The horticultural pest and disease board may enter into contracts and agreements with federal, state, and local government agencies, Indian tribes, and any other organization to perform any duties pursuant to the identification, detection, control, or eradication of horticultural pests and diseases”, and

WHEREAS, Okanogan County wishes to join together with these counties to better serve the tree fruit industry; and

WHEREAS, the interrelationship of the quantity and quality of work demanded of the programs in these three counties justifies creation of a Tri-County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board, and

WHEREAS, this Board deems it appropriate and in the interest of good governance to join in an interlocal agreement with Chelan and Douglas County to create the Tri-County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board with Chelan County as lead agency, and

WHEREAS, the Board further deems it appropriate that the current Chelan County Pest Board Agent shall be the Pest Board Agent for the new Tri-County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners hereby resolves as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as findings and conclusions of the commission in addition to the findings and conclusions following, and

2. A Tri-County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board for Chelan County is created, all as provided by the laws of the state of Washington, together with Douglas and Okanogan Counties upon resolution duly enacted by those counties.

3. The assessment structure of Okanogan County shall continue until such time as the Okanogan County members of the Tri-County pest board shall, pursuant to RCW 15.09.135;

(a) Prior to the levying of an assessment authorized in RCW 15.09.131, the horticultural pest and disease board shall hold a public hearing at which it will gather information to serve as a basis for classification and then classify the lands into suitable classification, including but not limited to orchard lands, range lands, dry lands, nonuse lands, forestlands, or federal lands.

(b) The board shall develop and forward to the county board of commissioners or other county legislative authority, as a proposed level of assessment for each class, an amount that seems just. The assessment rate shall be either uniform per acre in its respective class, a flat rate per parcel, or a flat rate per parcel rate plus a uniform rate per acre: PROVIDED, That if no benefits are found to accrue to a class of land, a zero assessment may be levied.

(c) The county board of commissioners or other county legislative authority, upon receipt of the proposed levels of assessment from the horticultural pest and disease board, after a hearing, shall accept or modify by resolution, or refer back to the horticultural pest and disease board for its reconsideration, all or any portion of the proposed levels of assessment.

(d) The amount of the assessment constitutes a lien against the property. The assessments shall be subject to the same provisions as those for property tax collections, as provided in RCW 84.56.020, and shall be collected by the county treasurer under the authority in RCW 84.56.035.

4. The Chelan County Pest Board Agent shall be the Pest Board Agent for the Tri-County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board.

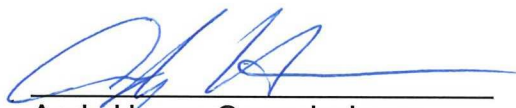
5. The adoption of this resolution is in the best interest of good governance for Okanogan County.

DATED at Okanogan, Washington, this 9th day of March, 2021

**OKANOGAN COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



Chris Branch, Chair



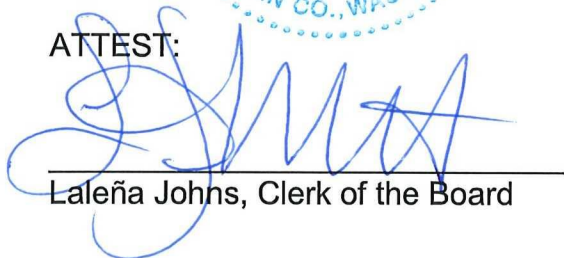
Andy Hover, Commissioner



Jim DeTro, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board