

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2016**

I. Time and Place of Meeting.

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) was held at the Ag Service Center, 6975 Hannegan Rd, Lynden, Washington on 6:30 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

The following Supervisors, being a quorum of the Board, were present:

Larry Helm, Chair
Theresa Sygitowicz

Larry Davis, Vice-Chair

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant
Aneka Sweeney, Education Outreach Coordinator

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Larry Helm, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

IV. Public Comment (written or in person).

There was no public comment either in writing or in person.

V. Consent Agenda.

The Board adopted a consent agenda for approval of the previous meeting minutes, financial report and accounts payable. The financial report was mailed to the Board with their draft minutes from the November meetings. Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented the financial report. A copy of District invoices and incurred expenses, as listed in the Accounts Payable Report, were reviewed and approved. The Board further authorizes the payment of District expenses incurred subject to their review and approval at the next Board meeting.

Larry Davis moved to approve the consent agenda: minutes of the November 10 and 21 Board meetings as mailed with technical edits, the financial report and authorize payment of District invoices and incurred expenses (below), as listed in the Accounts Payable Report. The Board further authorizes the payment of District expenses incurred subject to their review and approval at the next Board meeting. Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

Nov 2016 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	24265	through	24278	and totaling	5,300.73
Payroll check numbers:	24279	through	24298	and totaling	42,135.10
Dec 2016					
Voucher (check) numbers	24299	through	24343	and totaling	114,597.14
Payroll check numbers:	24344	through	24361	and totaling	39,081.19
Voucher (check) numbers	24362	through	34369	and totaling	4,534.59
Voucher (check) numbers	24391	through	24394	and totaling	949.05

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP) Approval –

There were two Dairy Nutrient Management Plans submitted for Board approval. Staff recommended approval as the plans contain the necessary elements prescribed by the Conservation Commission and the operators have signed their plans indicating that each plan accurately reflects his operation and agrees to its implementation.

Larry Helm moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Green Meadows (Ed Bosscher). Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Larry Helm moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Curt and Michael Lagerwey Dairy. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Critical Areas Ordinance Farm Plan Approval –

Chris Clark completed a Critical Areas Ordinance farm plan for Curt Maberry Farm-Mouw. It fulfilled the requisite elements for that type of plan. Staff recommended Board approval.

Theresa Sygitowicz moved to approve the Critical Areas Ordinance Farm Plan for Curt Maberry Farm-Mouw. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Technical Assistance Referral from Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) –

The Department of Agriculture referred two berry farms to the District to receive technical assistance for a very rudimentary plan for dairy solids, which includes guidance about where dairy manure is to be stored and how it is to be applied. Chuck Timblin provided the plan and technical assistance.

Larry Davis moved to approve the Technical Assistance Referral Plans for Baldev Sangha and Gurmit Singh farm. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was discussion regarding asking County Councilman Satpal Sidhu to come and speak at the Board meeting in the next few months. It was suggested staff invite Mr. Sidhu to the District's Speaker Series as well.

B. WCD WRIA 1 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Ranking Criteria.

George reviewed with the Board the draft ranking criteria for culvert projects only. USDA prescribes the framework within which projects are prioritized. These necessarily include national and state questions. However, the most points are awarded through local questions. Larry Helm suggested a greater emphasis in funding projects that would open up or allow increased access. The Board decided the criteria should be revised accordingly.

C. Approval of Contracts.

Interlocal Agreement with the City of Lynden –

The District has been working with the Stormwater Division of City of Lynden's Public Works Department since November 2015. Since that time the District's education staff have trained and mentored water quality volunteers, coordinated workshops and events in stormwater education, developed a pet waste education program, and worked with school groups at a high school and elementary level within the City of Lynden.

The City would like to continue this partnership and has funding available for 2017.

Larry Helm moved to approve and sign the Interlocal Agreement with City of Lynden for Stormwater Community Outreach and Education Program, for \$37,000. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Interlocal Agreement with Whatcom County Terrell Creek BBWARM –

In 2010, the Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management District (BBWARM) sought assistance from the District to work with rural property owners in the Terrell Creek watershed to address water quality problems. The District, in partnership with BBWARM, received a grant through the Environmental Protection Agency to fund the Terrell Creek Landowner Stewardship Initiative. The Initiative resulted in the positive engagement of landowners to voluntarily implement best management practices protective of water quality in Terrell Creek, such that it is anticipated that the recreational harvest areas will be reopened to harvest.

The District and the BBWARM Advisory Committee desire to continue their partnership and support for the Terrell Creek Landowner Stewardship Initiative to help landowners maintain actions to improve and protect water quality in the BBWARM District.

Larry Helm moved to approve and sign the ILA with BBWARM for the Terrell Creek Landowner Stewardship Program for \$18,000 to support existing District staff for the on-going outreach and education efforts in the Birch Bay/Terrell Creek area. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Birch Bay-Blaine Park & Rec District 2 Community Program WCD Run with the Chums Event –
Run with the Chums 5k Fun Run/Walk has been an annual event since 2013 hosted by Whatcom Conservation District and others. Each year there has been an increase in participation and countywide interest. The casual nature of the race, coupled with the educational elements have been well received as a family friendly way to stay health, get outside, connect with local natural resources, and learn how everyone can make changes in their own lives to improve water quality and salmon habitat. Previous funding sources are not available to the district anymore. Staff recommends applying for funding through the Birch Bay-Blaine Park and Recreation District 2 under their Community Program Support Grant for the 2017 Run with the Chums 5k Fun Run/Walk.

Larry Helm moved to submit a grant application and approve a subsequent contract for \$4,000 to the Birch Bay-Blaine Park and Recreation District 2 under their Community Program Support Grant for the 2017 Run with the Chums 5k Fun Run/Walk. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Long Range Program.

George reviewed the Long Range Program edits that incorporated all the previous Board and Public input and the final draft was sent to the for Board review.

Larry Helm moved to put the final draft out to the public for final review and adoption at the January Board meeting. Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Other Business.

Interlocal Agreement with Asotin Conservation District –

Staff was contacted by the Asotin Conservation District to provide them with technical assistance. To provide technical assistance across Conservation District boundaries an Interlocal Agreement should be in place.

Larry Helm moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Asotin Conservation District. Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dairy Planner –

Larry Helm spoke with Ron Schulz regarding our dairy planning backlog and potential funding to address the issue.

Larry Helm moved to approve advertising to hire a new dairy planner position. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Theresa Sygitowicz –

Theresa discussed the cold weather, loss of power and the impact that it is having on livestock producers. The good news is that there is not any mud with frozen ground.

Theresa reported that Jack Field decided to leave as Washington State Cattlemen's Association Executive Director. The Cattlemen's Ag on the Hill Leg days will be the second week in January.

Larry Davis –

Larry passed out a printed report of his activities.

Larry Helm –

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Annual Conference – Larry received a lot of feedback that the conference was great.

Ag Advisory Committee – Larry Helm has to step off the committee for a year. His term is up. Dick Yoder was the Conservation District's representative. There is interest to serve on the Ag Advisory Committee from Larry Davis and Theresa Sygitowicz. The Whatcom Conservation District has a designated representative on the Ag Advisory Committee. The Board will decide who will be the Conservation District representative at the January Board meeting.

Flood Board – Larry is planning to meet later in the week with Paula Cooper, Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District, regarding projects.

Whatcom Land Trust – Larry received a letter from the Whatcom Land Trust asking to have some time to make a presentation to the Board regarding their programs. It was decided to schedule them for 10 minutes at the January Board meeting.

Budget – The future budget looks uncertain. Larry would like to start to do some meet and greets in Lynden and Ferndale, tell people what we do and see if they would support a rate and charges.

B. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Ecology Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – A memo follow-up on the last MOU teleconference was passed out for the Board to review. It included a basic cooperative agreement between the District and the landowner/operator. Essentially it says that the District agrees to provide confidential technical assistance in the development of a conservation plan for the whole farm addressing water quality problems. This would alert the cooperators with what should be done, how and make it easier to obtain financial assistance. This may be more than what was observed by Ecology. However, if the District is going to spend time then it should solve all the problems in order to be an effective use of resources. However, that portion of the plan addressing the specific problem(s) identified by Ecology would be dealt with such that the landowner/operator could provide that to Ecology without disclosing the rest of the plan. George asked for Board feedback on the memo before the December 29, 2016 meeting with Ecology.

Whatcom County Pollution Identification Control (PIC) – The District will expand our current contracts with Whatcom County for the PIC program to include an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) regarding their relationship with us. March will be the next PIC agreement. The new ILA will apply to all County agencies. The Whatcom County inspector was taken off the job. The program was in a lull for the recent past. Drayton Harbor WS, North Fork of Dakota and California Creek have been the focus watersheds.

Larry Davis moved to approve the three-month extension for the Whatcom County PIC Outreach contract. Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Staffing – The District just hired the water quality data person. Meg Harris starts at the end of January.

The District also hired the Homeowner Incentive Program (HIP) person. Jennifer Coe previously worked at Skagit CD with the CREP and Firewise programs.

Miscellaneous – Larry Helm met with Bellingham School District to see if we can insure school visits. Aneka will go with Larry Helm to meet with Bellingham. Enduris representative will meet with Aneka regarding field tours and children.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) – George related the information he gained from the WSCC webinar. The WSCC Operating Budget for the next fiscal year is about \$1 million short of last biennium’s base funding. Also, not enough money was provided to meet the requirements of the RCPP commitments. The goal of the Commission and WACD Association is to get back up to base funding and increase RCPP match.

Larry Helm said that the Governor’s budget is predicated on new taxes and revenues. Nov’s potential Legislature changes may impact the state budget.

Larry Helm suggested that the Conservation District get the 40th legislature’s officials here to see what we do and show them projects, like the digester project with Janicki.

Shellfish Beds Re-opened – Over 24 years ago, the Drayton Harbor shellfish beds were closed. At a recent celebration in Blaine, the Conservation District received a plaque from Ecology for our work to help clean up the shellfish beds. This was that Agency’s highest honor. Theresa Sygitowicz suggested that staff send a press release to the Cascadia Weekly regarding this effort.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

16-89 Larry Davis moved to approve the consent agenda: minutes of the November 10 and 21 Board meetings as mailed with technical edits, the financial report and authorize payment of District invoices and incurred expenses (below), as listed in the Accounts Payable Report. The Board further authorizes the payment of District expenses incurred subject to their review and approval at the next Board meeting. Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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- 16-93 Larry Davis moved to approve the Technical Assistance Referral Plans for Baldev Sangha and Gurmit Singh farm. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 16-94 Larry Helm moved to approve and sign the Interlocal Agreement with City of Lynden for Stormwater Community Outreach and Education Program, for \$37,000. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 16-95 Larry Helm moved to approve and sign the ILA with BBWARM for the Terrell Creek Landowner Stewardship Program for \$18,000 to support existing District staff for the on-going outreach and education efforts in the Birch Bay/Terrell Creek area. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 16-96 Larry Helm moved to submit a grant application and approve a subsequent contract for \$4,000 to the Birch Bay-Blaine Park and Recreation District 2 under their Community Program Support Grant for the 2017 Run with the Chums 5k Fun Run/Walk. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 16-97 Larry Helm moved to put the final draft out to the public for final review and adoption at the January Board meeting. Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 16-98 Larry Helm moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Asotin Conservation District. Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 16-99 Larry Helm moved to approve advertising to hire a new dairy planner position. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 16-100 Larry Davis moved to approve the three-month extension for the Whatcom County PIC Outreach contract. Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Helm adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Dated: March 2, 2017

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____