

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2011**

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 December 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Joe Heller	Terry Lenssen
Larry Davis	Ed Stone
Dick Yoder	

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director	Alex Hall, NRCS staff
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant	

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Joe Heller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the November 9, 2011 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

The financial report was mailed to the Board with the draft minutes from the November meeting. Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented the financial report. There were no questions.

Ed Stone moved to approve the Financial Report. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Accounts Payable –

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.

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

Nov 2011 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19031</u>	through	<u>19084</u>	and totaling	<u>51,202.85</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>19085</u>	through	<u>19098</u>	and totaling	<u>27,783.72</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19099</u>	through	<u>19100</u>	and totaling	<u>291.09</u>
December 2011					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19101</u>	through	<u>19123</u>	and totaling	<u>29,935.75</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>19124</u>	through	<u>19138</u>	and totaling	<u>30,050.93</u>

Voucher (check) numbers 19139 and totaling 196.33
Moved by Ed Stone. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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. One is a new dairy and one is an update.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plans for:

- **Western Waves (Kevin Dougherty & Hilda Mitchell - update), and**
- **MyShan Dairy, Inc. (Mylon Smith – new plan).**

Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Contracts & Agreements.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Contracts –

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a joint federal and state program to enhance fish habitat and protect water quality. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the administrative lead. A District resource specialist (Wayne Chaudiere or Emily Hirsch) works with a landowner to develop a conservation plan that includes practices meeting the landowner's needs. It is reviewed for technical sufficiency by the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative (Alex Hall) and George Boggs. The landowner signs the plan and it is passed on to FSA. The FSA County Oversight Committee (COC) approves all CREP plans. The current District policy is that once FSA approves the Federal Contract and CREP plan, then the CREP maintenance contract is brought to the Board for its approval. Absent unusual circumstances, the Board approves the standard-language maintenance agreement prescribed by the State Conservation Commission.

There was one CREP maintenance contract submitted for Board approval. This plan was one among a group of plans that was submitted to the Washington State Conservation Commission for implementation this year.

Larry Davis moved to ratify the CREP maintenance contract for Harold (Sy) Eldred (10-04-CS:11-04). Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Intergovernmental Agreement for State Purchasing Cooperative –

The State of Washington Department of Enterprise Services Office of State Procurement Purchasing Cooperative Agreement sent a renewal for an additional year. Staff recommends entering into the agreement as the annual dues is more than offset by the costs saved in using their bid process. The Board was advised that the District has used the State Purchasing Cooperative for software purchases, janitorial contract, office supplies and vehicles.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve and sign the Inter-Governmental Agreement for State Purchasing Cooperative and submit dues in the amount of \$200 for a one-year extension of our membership. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Crop Mapping Project –

WSDA has requested assistance again this year from the District to update the Department of Agriculture's Crop Location Map (Agricultural Land Use Map). The contract total is \$5,000 to provide the mapping assistance to WSDA. Agricultural land use mapping provides geospatial crop system information. It is intended to be used by WSDA to provide data on crop locations for risk analysis.

Terry Lensen moved to approve the Crop Location Map contract for \$5,000 with the WA State Department of Agriculture. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis –

WACD – Larry attended the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) annual meeting in Suncadia, Cle Elum. The association by-laws were updated with changes adopted at the meeting. Larry explained that there was some clarification of the association structure for WACD and the WACD Plant Materials Center.

NACD – Larry will be attending the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual meeting in Las Vegas in January. Wade Troutman asked him to go. Attending will give Larry the opportunity to meet the other NACD Policy Book committee members face to face.

George and Larry met with Representative Lytton to introduce her to District activities. A poster showing our accomplishments was left to demonstrate the extent of our contributions to the community.

Committee Work – Larry served on the WACD MOA Task Force. A final template was presented to the Officers and Directors. It was approved at the WACD annual meeting.

Larry also reported on the Administrative Efficiencies Committee's work. Recommendations were made to WACD O&D.

WACD Award – Larry is the 2011 recipient of the Wayne Reid "Young Tiger" award at the WACD annual meeting. This award is given to a "new" supervisor (under six years of service) who has jumped in with both feet and hit the ground running. This individual is someone who has really helped the district meet their goals and objectives in a short period of time.

Joe Heller –

WACD – Joe attended the WACD annual meeting with Larry and George. Dick Yoder and Ed Stone received their 5-year service pins. Joe presented the pins to them.

Joe reviewed actions on the resolutions at the annual meeting. Two resolutions are proceeding to the national level.

David Vogel, new Executive Director for WACD, attended the meeting.

WACD 2011-2012 new officers were named:

- David Guenther, President – Central Klickitat Conservation District
- Alan Stromberger, Vice President – Lincoln Conservation District
- Chris Herron, Past President – Franklin Conservation District
- Albert Roberts, Secretary-Treasurer – Okanogan Conservation District
- Wade Troutman, National Director – Foster Creek Conservation District

Joe expressed his appreciation for George and all the work that he is doing.

B. Alex Hall, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – Alex reported that the 2011 sign-up deadline has passed. There are 50 applications for standard EQIP. NRCS needed to rank all applications by February 3, 2012. The basic eligibility has been waived this year. Applicants will not need to show proof of \$1,000 ag income. If applicants produce ag products they may be eligible to sign up. There are three additional initiatives this year. The first is seasonal high tunnels, second is a

farm energy conservation initiative, and third is an organic initiative. There are special funding pools for each initiative. Alex reviewed the deadlines for the new initiatives; February 3, March 30, and June 1, 2012. This should produce a large workload.

Alex reported that contracts may not be as flexible as they are now. Rescheduling and contract modifications may be more difficult to do.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – The CSP ranking deadline is January 13, 2012. There are some deferrals from last sign-up and there may be a few new sign-ups. Alex reported that there are a few changes expected to this program, but they are not sure what the changes are yet.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) – The WHIP ranking deadline is January 6, 2012. Funds are being targeted to specific targeted areas nationally this year.

NRCS staff are clearing up contracts and working on program deadlines.

C. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Washington Farm Energy Audits & Assessments: Dairies Focused in Skagit and Whatcom Counties – George reported that the Washington State University (WSU) received a grant for the expansion of the Washington Farm Energy Program to include Whatcom County. There are some technical assistance and cost-share funds to work with 13 dairies.

Small Acreage Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) – The District was awarded one of three contracts for \$30,000 from the Washington Conservation Commission to develop farm plans for small acreages using available CTA funds. A scope of work is being drafted.

VIII. Executive Session

8:00 pm. Joe Heller, Chair, announced that the public meeting was breaking so that the Whatcom Conservation District Board could go into Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss the tort claim filed against the District.

8:15 pm. Joe Heller adjourned the Executive Session and resumed the public meeting reporting that no action was taken.

IX. Other Business (continued).

A. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Whatcom County Planning Commission Meeting – No decision was made on the Habitat Mitigation fund. It was tabled until the January Planning Commission meeting.

Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities (FRRCC) –

NACD TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Subcommittee: George has been serving on this group that will make recommendations to NACD leadership on this issue. He reported on the draft policy that they developed. The basic concept is that districts will encourage and assist landowners to attain “reasonable” level of stewardship. State Conservation Associations, Conservation Districts, NRCS, land grant colleges, regulatory agencies and land industry stakeholders will collaborate on what is “reasonable.”

Meetings – The Flood Managers meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2011. They will be looking at tools for management of river systems that will allow for maintenance activities.

Whatcom County scheduled a Public Hearing for opinions on opting into or out of the Ruckelshaus Voluntary Process on January 10, 2012.

Shellfish Initiative – George attended the December 10th event in Shelton where the Governor announced a new Washington Shellfish Initiative. She said that shellfish are a resource important for jobs, industry, citizens and the tribes. The continued decline in water quality around Puget Sound has resulted in the loss of thousands of acres of shellfish harvest for commercial and recreational purposes. He heard also there that the State would be taking additional action to protect and enhance this resource including the formation of an EPA and State pollution action team. The Team’s activities could include pollution identification, inspections, enforcement, flyovers and technical assistance. As it affects us, the Team will focus initially in Drayton Harbor (because the long struggle over reopening community shellfish beds) and Portage Bay (due to growing concerns over the decline in water quality over tribal harvest areas).

January Board meeting – There was a conflict with Board member schedules to the usual second Wednesday of the month. The January Board meeting was moved to Thursday, January 12, 2012.

X. Record of Board Actions.

11-93 Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the November 9, 2011 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

11-94 Ed Stone moved to approve the Financial Report. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

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11-99 Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Crop Location Map contract for \$5,000 with the WA State Department of Agriculture. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

XI. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Dated: January 27, 2012

Approved: _____

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant