

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2012**

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 February 8, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Joe Heller, Chair
Larry Davis

Terry Lenssen, Vice Chair

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant
Jayne Uerling

Alex Hall, NRCS staff
Stu Trefry, WA Conservation Commission

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Joe Heller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the January 12, 2012 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 their draft minutes from the January meeting.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented the financial report. There were no questions.

Larry Davis moved to approve the Financial Report. Terry Lenssen 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:

Jan 2012 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19198</u>	through	<u>19217</u>	and totaling	<u>\$13,248.02</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>19218</u>	through	<u>19231</u>	and totaling	<u>\$28,479.89</u>
February 2012					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19232</u>	through	<u>19248</u>	and totaling	<u>\$30,363.03</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>19249</u>	through	<u>19262</u>	and totaling	<u>\$27,947.28</u>

Moved by Larry Davis. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP) Approval –

There is one Dairy Nutrient Management Plan submitted for Board approval. George reviewed the plan and reported that it uses the new farm plan template and addresses digestate.

Larry Davis moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for:

- **Kenneth Zylstra (plan update).**

Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Contracts –

There were no plans to approve this month. Terry was approached by someone regarding the ownership dispute on one of the newer CREP projects. George discussed the matter. To avoid similar issues in the future, providing to neighbors courtesy notice of intent to enroll property in a program may be warranted.

Jayne Uerling introduced herself. She expressed her interest in running for the elected position on the Board.

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

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – EQIP sign up is in full swing. The deadline to complete cost estimates and ranking was February 3, 2012. There are 75 applications.

Most applicants were also interested in the energy efficiency program. There are 70 applications for that program. The big question will be who is certified to do the energy audits. George reported that Frank Corey and Chris Clark will receive Energy Audit Training in connection with the WSU Extension contract. Alex reported that the program works in stages. In the first step, NRCS will pay for an energy audit plan. Then participants will return for assistance to install practices. It appears to be a long process.

The initial allocation for the regular Technical Service Provider (TSP) was less than in the recent past. It appears that only 3 or so of the 50 applicants will be funded at this time. There is over \$4 million in cost share sign up this year.

Alex reminded the Board that the High Tunnel program sign up deadline is March 30 and the organic sign up deadline is June 1, 2012. The high tunnel and organic programs will be ranked at the state level this year. The energy efficiencies program will be ranked at the national level.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – There were three people that expressed interest in CSP this year. However there were no applications submitted this round.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) – No additional funds are available for this program this year. They are working with existing contracts.

Local Working Group (LWG) – The Local Working Group meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2012. Alex and staff discussed providing input to the LWG regarding changes that would promote waste storage and storage improvements. Alex will work with Larry, as Chair of the LWG, regarding some suggestions.

C. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis – Larry attended the state STAC meeting. There was discussion regarding two alternatives on how to change the ranking from the current process. Larry requested examples for clarification of how the changes would impact things. It appears that the Local Working Group might not provide the same level of financial advisory input to the ranking process under these changes. The concern is that the LWG may see fewer participants if the LWG has limited or no input on how funds should be spent/allocated.

NACD – Larry and George attended the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV. The two Washington State resolutions were adopted at the NACD annual meeting. Larry reviewed the resolutions. Larry will work with Dave Vogel, WACD Executive Director, to see what happens with resolutions after they are adopted by the association. They will contact John Larson, NACD Executive Director, to see about follow through on resolutions and policies to see if they are completed.

NACD Policy Book Task Force – Larry reported that all recommendations from the Policy Book Task Force were adopted by the NACD board of directors at the annual meeting.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts – WACD is going to solicit ideas from K-12 students to create a new logo design for the association.

Larry is scheduled to attend King Conservation District's monthly board meeting on February 13, 2012 in his capacity as a NW Area Director.

D. Stu Trefrey, Washington State Conservation Commission.

Budget – Stu reviewed the memo on the 2013-15 budget development. A webinar is scheduled and comments from districts will be due before the next scheduled Commission meeting. There was discussion regarding the need to hold a special board meeting to address the issue after the webinar.

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. No action was taken during the executive session.

IX. Other Business (continued).

A. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Budget – A time for the special board meeting to offer comments on the budget development process to the Washington Conservation Commission was discussed if warranted after the webinar. The meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 29, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Livestock Program – The dairy team met with dairy planners from Snohomish and Skagit Conservation Districts. The planners agreed on setbacks and application timing. A shared template that all three districts will use is being created. The format was shared with the Washington Department of Agriculture for comment.

Washington Shellfish Initiative – George gave an update on the Pollution Control Action Team (PCAT) development. Two new inspectors should be hired by Ecology by the end of February. Doug Allen will replace Dick Grout in the Washington Department of Ecology's Bellingham Field Office.

Staffing and funding were discussed in connection to potential increases in workload brought about by the PCAT. We are looking to leverage all possible resources.

Ministry of Agriculture of British Columbia – George reported that the Ministry of Agriculture of British Columbia is developing a practice for farms in BC, which is like our Dairy Nutrient Management Plans. Staff will share our standards with BC Ministry representatives. The initial standards for BC are calling for 30 meter application setbacks and 1 year of manure storage.

League of Women Voters Presentation – Chuck Timblin, Emily Hirsch and George will be giving a presentation to the League of Women Voters on February 18, 2012. Emily will discuss the CREP program, Chuck will talk about farm planning, and George will give a general overview of the Conservation District, Board and priorities.

Birch Bay Pilot Habitat Mitigation Fund – The county planning commission recommended that the Birch Bay Pilot Habitat Mitigation Fund be approved with the area of concern removed. The proposal is going to the Whatcom County Council for review and approval. It will not be a wetland bank. It is a riparian mitigation bank.

WACD Legislative Days – Larry, Joe and George will attend WACD Legislative Days on February 22 and 23, 2012, in Olympia.

Puget Sound Caucus – The Puget Sound Caucus is going to meet again. George reviewed the history of the group.

B. Stu Trefry, Washington State Conservation Commission.

Small Acreage Grant– Stu reported that Whatcom received one of the small acreage grants for planning.

Good Governance Policy – Stu reviewed a new draft process and tool for District's Good Governance (previously titled, "Districts in Good Standing".) He discussed possible areas to review.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

X. Record of Board Actions.

12-11 Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the January 12, 2012 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-12 Larry Davis moved to approve the Financial Report. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

12-13

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Moved by Larry Davis. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- 12-14 Larry Davis moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for:
- Kenneth Zylstra (plan update).
- Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

XI. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Dated: April 2, 2012

Approved: _____

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant