

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2006**

I. Time and Place of Meeting.

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisor of the Whatcom Conservation District was held at the Ag Service Center, 6975 Hannegan Rd, Lynden, Washington on July 12, 2006, at 12:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabina Gouran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Jimerson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Stone		

Also in attendance were:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs, District Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Gillies, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor
	Robert Barker, Associate Supervisor		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Dick Yoder acting as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:20 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the June 14, 2006 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

The financial report was mailed to the Board with their draft minutes from the June 14, 2006 meeting.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report. There were no questions.

Ed Stone moved to approve the Financial Report. Joyce Jimerson 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:

June 2006 - balance				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14155</u>	Through	<u>14198</u>	and totaling <u>89,681.56</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14199</u>	Through	<u>14210</u>	and totaling <u>16,710.60</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	14211			and totaling 19.58

July 2006				
Voucher (check) numbers	14212	Through	14230	and totaling <u>25,194.23</u>
Payroll check numbers:	14231	Through	14242	and totaling <u>16,715.23</u>

moved by Ed Stone. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

Pioneers in Conservation Grant Sub-contracts –

Frank Corey reviewed the Pioneers in Conservation (PIC) projects that the District is currently working on. He also discussed a proposed PIC project for Dakota Creek. This project would work well with the existing CREP projects in the area.

There was discussion regarding beaver and their impact on riparian projects. Bob Barker has noticed that beaver have definite preferences on trees. Cottonwood is the most desirable, followed by willow and alder lower down on the list. They did not eat the Oregon Ash at all. It may be worth looking at their eating preferences when planting a site.

There are four sub-contracts for the California Creek Pioneers in Conservation project. The first was with JTI Commercial Services not to exceed \$1,500. The other three sub-contracts are to follow. There was a request for pre-authorization of these sub-contracts to expedite the project.

Ed Stone moved to approve and sign the contract with JTI Commercial Services not to exceed \$1,500. He moved the Board to authorize the future Pioneers in Conservation sub-contracts as they become negotiated so long as they were within the grant budget. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Plymouth K Car.

At the June 2006 meeting, the Board decided that the white Plymouth K Car is too expensive to fix and that the “fix” would probably create further problems. After some discussion the Board decided to liquidate the vehicle and purchase a new one. To tie up any loose ends the Board authorized George to liquidate the Plymouth K Car by any means.

Ed Stone moved to authorize George to liquidate the Plymouth K Car. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisors Reports.

Dick Yoder –

Dick asked about the gravel issue in the Nooksack River. George discussed the gravel issue and the Board’s concerns with Paula Cooper, Whatcom County Flood Division. She explained that the Nooksack River has not been modeled yet, but that they were working on it and it is progressing well. Whatcom County will consider gravel removal as part of the modeling process. Paula agreed to share materials with George and the District. The time frame is long term at this point. George will keep with Board informed as he learns more.

Sabina Gouran –

Sabina cautioned people to keep current on shellfish closures on all of the local beaches. Closure signs are posted by the Health Department but they are not always seen or understood. At the time of the Board meeting all of the beaches in Whatcom County were closed to shellfish harvest. There were a couple of cases of people that became ill, possibly due to shellfish consumption.

Bob Barker –

The Washington Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for July 19 & 20 in Vancouver, WA. The Conservation Commission will discuss the future of the CREP program. The CREP committee is seeking a change in the CREP rules to allow the program to relate to water quality and water quantity not just salmon streams. George explained that the current CREP contract between the State and federal government expires December 2007. There was discussion regarding the Riparian Enhancement on Ag Lands (REAL) program. The recommendation from the CREP committee to the WA Conservation Commission is to add practices. Hedgerows not just forested buffers will add water quality benefits. Bob pointed out that science shows benefits to smaller streams can be in the first 30 feet. Beyond that there is not much benefit. The benefit of larger buffers appears to be upland animal habitat.

John suggested that a water quality based program would be very broad. It was suggested that the recommendation should add the water quality benefit to the areas currently eligible on CREP maps.

There was discussion regarding filter strips and hedgerows and the NRCS standards to address erosion control. Bob Baker suggested that the Board should take a tour showing the various buffers and their differences.

B. George Boggs, District Manager.

Salmon Recovery Committee –

The Whatcom Conservation District has a position on the Salmon Recovery Committee. George asked if a member of the Board would like to participate. He explained the time commitment for this committee. The Board suggested that George or a staff member could serve.

NW Washington Fair –

Farm Friends is hosting the Farming for Life exhibit at the Northwest Washington Fair again this year. There was some discussion regarding the level of financial involvement that the Board desired at this year's fair. The Board decided to have a table and staffing only with no additional financial support to Farm Friends.

CREP Project Map –

A map showing all of the CREP projects was given to the Board with their Board meeting minutes packets. There was discussion regarding maintenance and survivability. Some projects do not look very good, but the trees will make it. Others have noxious weeds such as thistles and blackberries. CREP projects are not supposed to be park-like lawns. John reported on a project where the trees have "failed" to live, but a wetland has developed. NRCS staff have reviewed and determined that the project is a success as beaver habitat and this will not affect the rental income to the landowner or require replanting the trees. George reported that staff is assessing the nature and extent of noxious weeds in projects. There was discussion regarding using goats to do site preparation or maintenance on riparian projects. Some draw backs are that CREP projects are a "no grazing" zone, the goats may have access to the stream, and the goats would not stop at eating only the weeds. It was interesting to look at the idea.

Whatcom Conservation District co-hosted a CREP tour for representatives from Olympia (Office of Financial Management). A similar CREP and riparian buffer tour is scheduled for July 31st for technical individuals from Olympia.

Farmland Protection and Wetland Protection –

George reviewed the proposed wetland project on the Sterk property. George will be attending the wetland meeting. There was discussion regarding wetland mitigation banking and the financial gain possible. George explained that in Snohomish and Skagit Counties some groups are buying up farms and are converting them to wetlands, then selling the wetland mitigation. A group in Skagit is trying to block the sale of a dairy farm for this purpose. There was discussion regarding the Board's view on converting cropland to wetlands as mitigation for development. It

was pointed out by Sabina that if the area did not have favorable soils no amount of work would make it a wetland. So it was suggested that the quality of agriculture land should be looked at. Poor quality Ag land (marginal or wet pasture) would make a good wetland. It was probably a wetland in the past. There was discussion on landowner rights as well as the District's policy against development of ag land.

George asked the Board to outline their policy on wetland development. The Board would like to help establish wetlands in the best areas to maximize the benefit.

- Don't force a landowner to develop a wetland if they are adverse to it.
- Take the best sites to do the wetland development. (Look at soils and historical uses.)
- Be more strategic in planning the sites to get the maximum benefit. (If possible choose a site that has neighboring riparian projects for a larger impact.)

C. John Gillies, NRCS.

Farm and Rangeland Protection –

Roger Bajema signed up for and was ranked high by the Ag Advisory Committee for farmland protection through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program.

Drainage –

John was contacted by Cornie Timmermans regarding a culvert on his property and a drainage issue. The problem appears to be near Lynden Door where they brought in 5 feet of fill, so there is no grade for ¼ mile between two culverts. John discussed the flooding potential and was in contact with the City of Lynden regarding the matter.

Wetland Mitigation –

The landowner that received a wetland violation from FSA has an agreement to do wetland mitigation for the wetland violation.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

06-39 Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the June 14, 2006 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

06-40

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06-41 Ed Stone moved to approve and sign the contract with JTI Commercial Services not to exceed \$1,500. He moved the Board to authorize the future Pioneers in Conservation sub-contracts as they become negotiated so long as they were within the grant budget. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

06-42 Ed Stone moved to authorize George to liquidate the Plymouth K Car. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Joyce Jimerson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:12 p.m. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Dated: August 24, 2006

Approved: _____

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant