

WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2009

I. Time and Place of Meeting.

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Whatcom Conservation District ("Board") was held at the Ag Service Center, 6975 Hannegan Rd, Lynden, Washington on June 10, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder, Chairman ("Dick")	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Stone, Vice Chair ("Ed")
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Heller ("Joe")	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Davis ("Larry")
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Terry Lenssen ("Terry")		

Also in attendance were:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs, District Manager ("George")	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alex Hall, NRCS ("Alex")
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant ("Dawn")		
	Robert Barker, Associate Supervisor ("Bob")		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Dick called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Joe Heller moved that the minutes of the May 13, 2009 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

It was requested that we make our minutes more understandable to folks who are unfamiliar with the acronyms we use and personnel. This may be through a key or glossary at the end of the minutes or as they are used. For example: George Boggs ("George") or Environmental Quality Incentive Program ("EQIP"). Staff said they would work on this and come back with ideas.

V. Financial Report.

The financial report was mailed to the Board with their draft minutes from the May meeting.

Dawn asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report. There were no questions.

Joe Heller 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:

May 2009 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16851</u>	through	<u>16861</u>	and totaling	<u>12,161.94</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16862</u>	through	<u>16875</u>	and totaling	<u>27,179.06</u>
June 2009					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16876</u>	through	<u>16899</u>	and totaling	<u>16,680.02</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16900</u>	through	<u>16916</u>	and totaling	<u>27,272.88</u>

Moved by Larry Davis. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

Livestock Cost-share Application –

There was one application for livestock cost-share submitted for Board approval and submittal to the WA Conservation Commission for funding consideration.

Joe Heller moved to approve the livestock cost-share application for Lensen Dairy (Terry Lensen) – manure transfer \$25,000 and submit to the WA Conservation Commission for funding consideration. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed. (Terry Lensen abstained from the vote.)

Dept of Ecology (WDOE) Water Meter Cost-share –

There was one water meter contract submitted for approval for DOE cost-share.

Terry Lensen moved to approve the DOE water meter cost-share contract for the Pole Road Water Association second well. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis –

Larry was one of three judges at the oral station of the state Envirothon competition that was held at Camp Lutherwood on Lake Samish. The team from Whatcom County did not attend the state competition.

Larry also took a field trip with Sonya Schaller to review 3 CREP projects. He learned a lot and asked a lot of questions about CREP and the projects.

Joe Heller –

Recognition - Joe informed the Board that the Mt. Baker FFA Forestry Team won the Washington State FFA Forestry Career Development Event (CDE) for the third year in a row. They are eligible to go to the national competition. Last year they placed 13 out of 39 teams nationally. The Board decided to recognize the Mt. Baker FFA Forestry Team for its accomplishment through a citation and \$100 award. This award could be used to offset some of the costs of travel to the national competition.

Larry Davis moved to present the Mt. Baker FFA Forestry Team a certificate of recognition and give them a \$100 cash award for winning the state competition 3 years in a row. Terry Lensen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) -

Joe accompanied George Boggs and Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District Manager, to the WACD Officers and Directors June meeting in Ellensburg that took place prior to the Washington

State Conservation Commission's (WSCC) June meeting. The recommendations for funding allocations were accepted and sent to the WSCC.

Dick Yoder –

Nichole Embertson gave a presentation on air quality at the local Cattlemen's Association meeting. There were approximately 60-70 people in attendance, which is quite a bit more than normally attend. Wes Kentch facilitated the meeting. He was good about keeping the group on topic. However there was still grumblings about the Conservation District from the crowd. They were concerned that the District is enforcing Critical Areas Ordinance violations. The Board discussed this misconception and discussed how to get the message out that the Conservation District will help livestock owners meet the regulations in place by the County. We are not an enforcement agency.

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

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) –

EQIP had a special organic producer sign-up. The Lynden NRCS Field Office received 6 applications. Alex reported that there was a limited time to rank the applications. There are three dairies in the organic applications. The organic producers will get their own pool of funds this year with a cap of \$80,000 per producer.

The NRCS Cultural Resources specialist will be coming to review land disturbance projects, such as pipelines, slabs, etc. They need to get verification and approval that the project will not impact a cultural resource prior to beginning construction.

The 2010 EQIP application sign-up deadline is August 15, 2009. The Lynden Field Office has 18 applications so far.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) –

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program applications have been given to Kathy Kilcoyne, Mt. Vernon NRCS Field Office, for planning and design work. The WHIP funds should be obligated on July 15, 2009.

Alex is looking into getting Technical Service Provider (TSP) funds for Frank Corey to work on WHIP culvert replacement projects.

EQIP Cost-share List –

George and Alex submitted for board comments and corroboration a list of recommendations from staff of eligibility items for EQIP cost-share. The Local Work Group meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2009.

The Board reviewed the priority list in alphabetical order. The Board made comments and additions to the list. George recorded and will submit to Steve Nissley, NRCS District Conservationist in the Mt. Vernon NRCS office.

Under Atmospheric Resource Quality Management, Biodiesel Incentive – There was discussion regarding funding for electric engines conversion from diesel engines. The Board said that they would like to include new service. Allow new electric engines in eligibility, not just conversions.

Alex explained the ranking criteria for EQIP cost-share. The criterion's set then the practices that treat that resource concern are decided. The process is to approve the concept state-wide then work up the rates regionally.

There was discussion regarding plastics generated for recycling, the costs to recycle and the places that you can recycle.

Under Irrigation Systems: Sprinkler, Big Gun – There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of using big guns for manure application. Cons include volatilization of ammonia, overspray with wind. Pros include the ability to use for manure application and water irrigation. There was discussion to make the practice more environmentally friendly by using lower impact big guns with spray plates.

Under Manure Transfer – Alex reported that Bedding Recovery Units (BRU) and sand separation systems are not funded as a whole, although some components may be funded under the current eligibility list. The cost associated with these systems was discussed. They are quite expensive, about \$200,000.

Under Waste Utilization – The Board would like to include manure tankers. They would like eligibility to include stationary and mobile equipment.

The Board approved the list of recommendations with comments as modified (attached). They directed George to send the list to other area districts for review.

Terry Lensen move to adopt the recommendations for the eligible practice list for Washington State and Whatcom County with the noted changes and distribute to the area Conservation Districts for consideration and support at the Local Work Group meeting. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Local Work Group (LWG) meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2009 in Coupeville. There was discussion about the availability for Board attendance and participation. George reviewed the LWG Chair responsibilities. He noted that Whatcom County receives 85 – 90% of the EQIP funds for our cluster.

C. George Boggs, District Manager

Funding –

George reported to the Board that we will use all of the WA Conservation Commission grant funds that we received this fiscal year.

George reviewed criteria to receive funding and the funding process. The Conservation Commission will have a teleconference Friday, June 12 to discuss funding.

Birch Bay Watershed Aquatic Resources Management (BBWARM) District –

George talked with Craig Olason, Whatcom County, regarding BBWARM. They are considering contracting up to \$10,000 with the District to develop strategies that address small livestock operations and residential stormwater. BBWARM wants to be proactive but not regulatory. They desire to be community driven in making environmental improvements.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) –

George informed the Board that it was time to submit nominations for annual awards that are given during the WACD Annual Convention this winter. He reviewed the categories and deadlines. There was discussion regarding potential nominations from Whatcom County. George will send out the awards nomination information to the Supervisors.

Conservation Program and Ag Lands (CPAL) –

George gave some background information on the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) and farm planning. Buffers without a farm plan are very large. The buffers are reduced with a farm plan. George reported that the Farm Bureau is going to do a landowner site visit to review a contentious plan.

The County has received complaints filed by representatives from Re-sources (for Sustainable Communities) people. Photos are sent to Whatcom County Planning. Some of these complaints are unclear in the photos. It was suggested that the Re-Sources volunteers receive some training

in order to gain perspective as to what activities can impact critical areas. George volunteered Chuck Timblin to provide the training.

Purchasing Policy –

George explained that the purchasing policy appeared to have some holes in it upon further review. A revision was submitted for review and approval. George reviewed the changes.

Joe Heller moved to approve the purchasing policy revision (attached). Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Drainage Manual –

Lovena Bekenyi, student at Bellingham Technical College, has been in our office as an intern for the past two months. She produced 170 Drainage District Manuals and other handouts. George suggested that the Board give her some recognition for her efforts.

Election of District Officers –

Chair –

Terry Lenssen nominated Dick Yoder as Chair. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There were no further nominations for Chair. The Board voted on the nomination. Dick Yoder was elected as Chair.

Vice-Chair –

Larry Davis nominated Ed Stone as Vice-Chair. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There were no further nominations for Vice-Chair. The Board voted on the nomination. Ed Stone was elected as Vice-Chair.

Secretary/Treasurer –

Ed Stone nominated Joe Heller as Secretary/Treasurer. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There were no further nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. The Board voted on the nomination. Joe Heller was elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

09-51 Joe Heller moved that the minutes of the May 13, 2009 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

09-52 Joe Heller 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.

09-53

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

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June 2009

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Payroll check numbers:	<u>16900</u>	through	<u>16916</u>	and totaling	<u>27,272.88</u>

Moved by Larry Davis. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- 09-54 **Joe Heller moved to approve the livestock cost-share application for Lenssen Dairy (Terry Lenssen) – manure transfer \$25,000 and submit to the WA Conservation Commission for funding consideration. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed. (Terry Lenssen abstained from the vote.)**
- 09-55 **Terry Lenssen moved to approve the DOE water meter cost-share contract for the Pole Road Water Association second well. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 09-56 **Larry Davis moved to present the Mt. Baker FFA Forestry Team a certificate of recognition and give them a \$100 cash award for winning the state competition 3 years in a row. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 09-57 **Terry Lenssen move to adopt the recommendations for the eligible practice list for Washington State and Whatcom County with the noted changes and distribute to the area Conservation Districts for consideration and support at the Local Work Group meeting. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 09-58 **Joe Heller moved to approve the purchasing policy revision (attached). Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Election of District Officers –
Chair –

- 09-59 **Terry Lenssen nominated Dick Yoder as Chair. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

There were no further nominations for Chair. The Board voted on the nomination. Dick Yoder was elected as Chair.

Vice-Chair –

- 09-60 **Larry Davis nominated Ed Stone as Vice-Chair. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

There were no further nominations for Vice-Chair. The Board voted on the nomination. Ed Stone was elected as Vice-Chair.

Secretary/Treasurer –

- 09-61 **Ed Stone nominated Joe Heller as Secretary/Treasurer. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

There were no further nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. The Board voted on the nomination. Joe Heller was elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Joe Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Dated: July 23, 2009

Approved: _____

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant