

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2007**

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 May 9, 2007, at 12:15 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

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

Also in attendance were:

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

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:15 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the April 18, 2007 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 April meeting.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report. There was discussion regarding the accumulated payables due from the Department of Ecology. George has contacted Jeff Nejedly regarding the problem. Jeff said that he would ensure that payments would be brought current. Future invoices would be reviewed and paid promptly. .

Dick Yoder 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:

April - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14957</u>	through	<u>14964</u>	and totaling	<u>4,354.21</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14965</u>	through	<u>14980</u>	and totaling	<u>20,961.49</u>

Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14981</u>			and totaling	<u>96.52</u>
May 2007					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14982</u>	through	<u>14996</u>	and totaling	<u>8,500.89</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14997</u>	through	<u>15012</u>	and totaling	<u>21,553.45</u>

moved by Dick Yoder. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

CREP Maintenance Costs for Cover Crop Seeding –
WCD CREP technicians have concluded that there is a need for cover crop establishment on some CREP projects in areas where there is bare soil.

The following CREP projects, which are being planted this spring, are recommended for cover crop seeding.

Project Name	Acres	Seeding Cost
Patmar Farms (Dick Bedlington)	9.8	\$330
Countryside Dairy (Mike Schoneveld)	12.3	\$495

Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the recommendation list of projects and costs for CREP cover crop seeding maintenance. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Biological Evaluation for Honrud CREP project –

Stan Honrud CREP project includes in-stream work (channel remeandering, large woody debris placement, deleveling, and culvert replacement). The in-stream work is funded by a pending Community Salmon Fund (CSF) grant to WCD. A CFS grant authorization letter has been received. A contract will soon follow. Frank is pursuing permits for the project. Permitting agencies require a Biological Evaluation (BE) for this project.

Bids have been solicited from 3 qualified biologists to complete the BE. One bid has been received to date (attached). Additional bids are expected this week. Preauthorization is requested for BE contracted services not to exceed \$1,650. CSF grant will fund BE contract. The contract is time sensitive. Army Corps of Engineers requires the information by the end of May.

Joyce Jimerson moved to approve and authorize Board signature of the contract for the Honrud CREP in-stream project biological evaluation not to exceed \$1,650 with the winning bidder. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Robert Barker –

Bob purchased some digested fiber from the local anaerobic digester. It had a strong smell of ammonia. He asked Craig MacConnell, WSU Extension, if there was any analysis being done on the digested fiber. Bob received a copy of the test results and reviewed them with the Board. The digested fiber is high in ammonia with a PH of 9. Bob said that the nitrogen in the sample was predominately in the gas stage. There is already a concern in Canada regarding white smog from ammonia gas. Bob wondered about unintended side effects of solutions, such as the methane digester. It may create a new problem with more digesters that could add ammonia to the atmosphere. The Washington Conservation Commission is responsible for making sure that the new digester in Mason County is going in correctly.

George mentioned that he tied this issue into his presentation at the Western Dairy Producers Conference in Las Vegas. At the conference, George found out that the EPA is sending out 38 trailers full of equipment to test livestock operations to review emissions. They will test swine, cattle and poultry operations. There will be two trailers sent to Washington.

When George spoke with Governor Gregoire regarding methane digesters, he informed her that they could give off ammonia and hydrogen sulfide. These could be as big if no bigger problem than methane.

The Board continued to discuss the test results on the digested fiber. Dick asked about the moisture content. He said that the test showed that the material is very wet. He suggested that it should be dried and an exhaust scrubber could be added during the drying process to the methane digester. This would help with the ammonia gas. George explained that they found similar information and are doing research in Colorado. The challenge of air emissions is new, complex and not well understood. There was a recent legislative proposal in to regulate ammonia and hydrogen sulfide. Bob intends to bring the subject up at the next WA Conservation Commission meeting. He hopes that they can work with the methane digester contractor in Mason to avoid unintended problems.

George discussed nitrogen issues. There is a meeting June 19th in Canada regarding the cost of poor air quality, visibility and what can be done about it.

B. George Boggs.

Potential Flooding in Fraser River –

Chris Clark was told after the Ground Water Aquifer meeting in British Columbia that there was a large flood predicted for the Fraser River valley due to the above average snow pack. The Canadians are doing some flood preparedness planning. They are looking to move the cows out of the flood area. This may include moving some down to the US. The Canadians have setup a headquarters to identify the high threat areas and the dairies that are impacted. They will determine if the dairies have a place to take their cows or do they need to move them elsewhere in Canada or Washington. The Canadians do not think that it will flood in Sumas. Chris will meet next week with representatives from Canada. We should know more then what they plan to do.

The question is what, if anything, can the Whatcom Conservation District do. Staff has been in contact with the Department of Ag, Dairy Federation and representative from Canada regarding the issue.

Dick Yoder feels that the District should do whatever they can to help with the situation. He was concerned about quarantining the cows, making sure that all products, cows, etc go back across the border to keep Washington cows safe. The Board discussed potential impacts of bringing cows down from Canada. There was concern regarding disease and the market perception of Washington cows and the impact on feed costs in Whatcom County.

The Board decided that the District's role was to help deal with the environmental impact as a result of moving cows in. The industries, Dairy Federation, Cattlemen's Association and agencies need to be involved in the issues with bringing down cows. The District will urge the State agencies to work with and respect the considerations of the local and state livestock associations.

C. Executive Session.

The Board adjourned into Executive Session to discuss legal matters regarding the resolution of Verizon contractor trespass at 1:30 p.m.

Jerry Van Dellen closed the Executive Session at 2:20 p.m.

Dick Yoder moved to authorize the District's attorney/Manager and District Chair proceed with the action as determined in the Executive Session. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

07-33 Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the April 18, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

07-34 Dick Yoder 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.

07-35

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07-36

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Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the recommendation list of projects and costs for CREP cover crop seeding maintenance. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

07-37 Joyce Jimerson moved to approve and authorize Board signature of the contract for the Honrud CREP in-stream project biological evaluation not to exceed \$1,650 with the winning bidder. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

07-38 Dick Yoder moved to authorize the District's attorney/Manager and District Chair proceed with the action as determined in the Executive Session. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Dick Yoder moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Dated: June 21, 2007

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____