

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
October 11, 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 October 11, 2006, 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 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		
	Robert Barker, Associate Supervisor		

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:18 p.m.

**IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

Robert Barker pointed out a typo in the draft minutes.

**Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the September 13, 2006 Board meeting be approved as amended. 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 September 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:

Sept 2006 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14417</u>	through	<u>14432</u>	and totaling	<u>19,914.42</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14433</u>	through	<u>14445</u>	and totaling	<u>17,958.12</u>

October 2006			
Voucher (check) numbers	14446	through	14459
		and totaling	5,901.80
Payroll check numbers:	14460	through	14472
		and totaling	18,355.06

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

**VI. Action Items.**

**A. Approval of Contracts.**

Lawn care –

The lawn care contract with Turftenders is due for renewal at the current (2006) rate of \$216.80 per month.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to renew and sign the lawn care contract for 2007 with Turftenders at the rate of \$216.80 per month. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

CREP Contracts –

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the administrative lead on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) joint program. The FSA County Committee approves all plans. The current policy is that once FSA approves the Federal Contract and CREP plan the contract is then brought to the Board meeting for ratification. As per the current policy, the Board approved four contracts.

**Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Doug & Tanya Dostal (06-04-CR01:06-06), Gerald & Helen Hulbert (06-04-CR01:06-27), Steve & Ulla Jenkins (06-04-CR01:06-26), and Whatcom County Public Works Landing Strip Creek (06-04-CR01:06-25). Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**B. Action Items.**

Water Supply Line Repairs –

George informed the Board that there is a leak somewhere in the exterior water supply line by the northeast corner of the building by the tree stump. The Pole Road Water Association has requested that we fix it. George explained the complications of trying to pin point the exact location of leak. It may be under the parking lot since the pipeline connects to the mainline along Hannegan Road. There was discussion about the options of how to fix the leak. George was directed to contact the Pole Road Water Association about tying into the water main along the north side of the building. The Board authorized repairing the water supply line using the lowest responsible bidder.

**Dick Yoder moved to authorize that George Boggs hire the lowest responsible bidder to repair the exterior water supply line in the most efficient way possible. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Laptop Computer –

The computer that Sonya uses is old. It is inefficient, especially when working on maps. George asked the Board for authorization to purchase a new laptop computer that Chris will use. Chris has requested to have a laptop to use in the field.

**Dick Yoder authorized purchase of a laptop for approximately \$2,600. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

NW Area Meeting –

There was discussion about who could attend the NW Area meeting on October 25, 2006 at Puyallup. George and Bob Barker will attend. Jerry may possibly be able to attend if his commitments allow.

WACD Annual Convention –

The Washington Association of Conservation District's (WACD) Annual Convention is in Spokane on November 28 – 30, 2006. Bob Barker will attend. There was discussion regarding attendance by other Board members.

Resolutions –

Bob explained that the resolutions become guidance for the state association (WACD). Resolutions are written by Conservation District's that have encountered an issue. They are sent to the Area meetings for support, then go on to the WACD Annual Convention. Only Board members can vote at the NW Area and WACD Annual Convention. As Bob pointed out the resolutions become guidance for the state association, so it is important to have Supervisor representation at both the Area meeting and WACD Annual Convention.

George explained that the WA State Attorney General's office has interpreted the law to read that Conservation Districts are not allowed to charge a fee for service. George pointed out that it is challenging to put on workshops. WSU Extension charges a fee for their workshops. Being able to charge a fee for workshops would augment the Public Education funding that would not be tied to a specific grant. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of writing a resolution seeking authority for Conservation Districts to charge a fee for service. There was discussion regarding workshops and how to address the private sector concerns of Conservation Districts charging for workshops. The Board directed George to draft a resolution seeking authority for Conservation Districts to charge a fee for service. He will circulate the draft resolution to the Board for comments and submit to the NW Area meeting.

There was discussion regarding mitigation banking and selling credits on wetlands. A resolution regarding mitigation banking may be discussed at the area meeting.

**VII. Other Business.**

**A. Supervisor's Report.**

Joyce Jimerson –

Joyce reported on the Preserving Whatcom County Farmland (A Panel Discussion of Policy and Tools Available for Local Farmland Preservation) meeting presented by the Community Food Co-op on October 25 in the Whatcom County Council Chambers.

**B. George Boggs.**

WGEP –

George invited the Board to attend the Washington Governmental Entity Pool (WGEP) Fall Membership Training with guest speaker Gordon Graham in Everett, WA on November 7, 2006. Gordon will present on Civil Liability for Public Operations and other employment related issues.

Georgia Strait/Puget Sound Basin –

The Georgia Strait/Puget Sound Basin group will be having nitrogen deposition presentations in Mt. Vernon on October 30, 2006. There will be a speaker from the US Parks Service and Patrick Shaw, Environment Canada. Patrick Shaw will discuss critical loads analysis in Canada. The US Parks Service is also seeing the degradation in upper areas in the Rocky Mountains. The concern regarding nitrogen deposition did not come from the Clean Air Act, but due to a lawsuit that was brought to protect the upper areas in the Rocky Mountains.

Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) Grant Applications –

George reviewed the grant ideas with the Board. The first one is a small and moderate farm outreach program. The District will partner with the local granges and FFA groups on education. The second grant application will augment CREP projects with in stream projects like off-channel work and de-leveling. The second grant application has some concerns. George discussed the match requirement and studies on treating bacteria through wetlands restoration. The grant applications are due to the Department of Ecology on October 30.

Ag Pilots Project –

George is helping to develop an Ag Pilots project proposal for carbon sequestering. It will be a partnership between Whatcom, Skagit and Okanogan Conservation Districts. George reviewed the concept.

Whatcom County Critical Areas Ordinance –

George discussed potentially writing a grant that would “shop” Whatcom’s critical areas buffer concept to other counties and interested groups.

North Lynden –

The Bertrand Watershed Improvement District (WID) is the recipient of \$30,000 for a fine cited in the Fishtrap watershed. They will use the funds to explore the creation of a Drainage Improvement District or WID on Fishtrap Creek. The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) will be doing the riparian work mitigation. George reported that the City of Lynden is contemplating putting the Benson Road drainage in a pipe. It is a fish bearing stream. The City is concerned about flooding. George is planning to meet with representatives from the City of Lynden regarding piping a fish bearing stream.

Ed Stone –

Ed received a letter from his upstream neighbors. They wanted to discuss drainage concerns on their property and whether or not the Stone riparian project and beaver activity is a factor. There was discussion regarding the matter. It was suggested that a survey showing the road culverts and stream levels be done after the leaves have fallen. George and Ed will meet with the neighbors regarding this matter. This brings to light the potential for impacts to neighboring property brought on by CREP and other riparian projects. It should be passed on to the WA Conservation Commission.

November Board Meeting Date –

George has been approved to attend the Advanced Facilitation meeting on November 8 and 9. The Board decided to change the date of the November Board meeting to November 15, 2006.

Dairy Federation –

Jerry mentioned George’s response to the Dairy Federation’s letter of support for I-933. Jerry didn’t feel that the letter was pointing to Whatcom County as a bad example. George reported that he had discussed the matter with Jay Gordon. There was some discussion of I-933.

Employee Matters –

Dawn is working on the salary and compensation survey. She has gathered most of the information and is compiling it into some comparison forms. George spoke with Steve Jilk, PUD #1, and he is agreeable to be on the review committee.

The Board decided to table the request from Sonya Schaller regarding medical insurance for her spouse. The matter will be tabled until the committee has met and the Board acts on the information gathered.

**C. John Gillies.**

Miscellaneous Items –

Joy Hawley and John are working on EQIP contracts.

The NRCS Lynden Field Office is getting a total survey station grade GPS and a new SUV to transport it.

John is scheduled to do an activity based cost-estimate on NRCS activities.

Job Approval Authority –

With John's retirement at the end of the year, there is an issue regarding obtaining NRCS approval for plans and other necessary paperwork. Joy Hawley does not have job approval authority. There is no training to receive this approval anytime soon. George spoke with Steve Nissley, NRCS District Conservationist located in Mt. Vernon, regarding getting a person with job approval authority in our office. John reported on the benefit of getting NRCS plan approval for projects.

**VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**06-61 Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the September 13, 2006 Board meeting be approved as amended. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**06-62 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.**

**06-63**

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**06-66 Dick Yoder moved to authorize that George Boggs hire the lowest responsible bidder to repair the exterior water supply line in the most efficient way possible. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**06-67 Dick Yoder authorized purchase of a laptop for approximately \$2,600. 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 2:15 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Dated: November 16, 2006

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Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_