

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2005**

**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 13, 2005, at 12:00 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 type="checkbox"/>	Cornelius Timmermans
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rod Visser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Jimerson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder		

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		Chris Clark, Resource Specialist

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:05 p.m.

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

**Joyce Jimerson moved that the minutes of the September 8, 2005 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder 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.

**Rod Visser 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 05 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13494</u>	through	<u>13506</u>	and totaling	<u>21,652.26</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13507</u>	through	<u>13520</u>	and totaling	<u>19,079.53</u>
October 2005					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13521</u>	through	<u>13552</u>	and totaling	<u>34,814.73</u>

Payroll check numbers: 13553 through 13566 and totaling 19,439.15  
**moved by Rod Visser. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

George explained the livestock windshield survey assessment that we are doing. Information gathered from the survey will be used to fill out the assessment for additional livestock funding.

## **VI. Action Items.**

### **A. Approval of Contracts.**

#### Dairy Nutrient Management Plan Certification –

As a new operation Meadow Park Dairy (Kevin Engelsma) has six months after the dairy nutrient management farm plan is approved to have it certified.

**Rod Visser moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Kevin Engelsma (Meadow Park Dairy) reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

#### Dairy Nutrient Management Plan Approval –

The producer requested the possibility of splitting his Dairy Nutrient Management Plan into two plans. George gave the background of the operations involved. The producer owns the farm and the cows. The land base is owned by a LLC. Jeremy Visser asked if the manure could be 100% off sited to the LLC. Doing this the Valley Brothers Dairy Nutrient Management Plan would not have the manure application records for the land base owned by the LLC.

The concern was how do you certify a plan without being able to check the box regarding the manure application? John Gillies mentioned that we need to track the manure application to make sure it is in agronomic rates regardless of where it goes. George reviewed three possible actions that the Board could take and the legal issues.

1. The Board could adopt the Dairy Nutrient Farm Plan without a reference to another plan showing manure out sourcing. But how would you be able to certify the original plan without checking the manure application and soil testing box?
2. The Board could adopt the Dairy Nutrient Farm Plan with a reference to another plan showing manure out sourcing. There was discussion as to whether the manure would be applied in agronomic rates, soil testing requirements and how this could be checked by enforcement agencies.
3. The Board could disapprove the division of the Dairy Nutrient Farm Plan. If the producer wishes to appeal they can bring it to the WA Conservation Commission.

There was discussion regarding the manure agreement forms. It was suggested that a revision should be made to make landowners receiving manure do soil tests or allow the dairy producer access to the land to do soil tests. There was discussion regarding receiving manure for land application and receiving manure for production, i.e. compost production, etc.

After further discussion it was decided that the Board would approve the Valley Brothers Dairy Nutrient Management Plan only if it incorporated both the land base and facilities.

**Dick Yoder moved to approve the Valley Brothers LLC Dairy Nutrient Management Plan that incorporates the land base and facilities all in one binder. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### **B. Approval of Contracts.**

#### CREP Cultural Resources Assessments –

There are six CREP applicants that need to have cultural resource assessments done on their proposed projects. The District sends out requests for bids to a list of certified archeologists. From those that respond the District selects the lowest bidder. The District enters into an agreement for the cultural resource assessment with the contractor. Two contracts for three projects each were presented to the Board for approval.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contracts with 1. Drayton Archeological Research LLC (Garth Baldwin) for the John Littleton, Barbara Casort, and Mike & Lisa Henniger CREP projects in the amount of \$5,869.57 and 2. Equinox Research and Consulting (Kelly Bush) for the Steve Mach, Katherine Ryan and Mildred Snyder CREP projects in the amount of \$2,973.47. Rod Visser 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 contracts. 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 five contracts presented as approved at the Farm Service Agency's September 2005 County Committee meeting.

**Rod Visser moved to ratify the CREP contracts for John Davies (04-04-CR02:5-27), Wendy Koehler (04-04-CR02:05-20), Mike Sinlan (04-04-CR02:05-26), Myrtle White (04-04-CR02:05-28) and Steve & Marla Morrow (04-04-CR02:05-21). Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Lawn care Contract –

The District's current lawn care provider stopped doing the work in July with no notice. Staff contacted other lawn care companies to give a bid. Turftenders submitted a bid for lawn care for \$216.60 per month. The former provider was charging \$190 a month.

**Joyce Jimerson moved that the Whatcom Conservation District accept and sign the contract with Turftenders for lawn care services in the amount of \$216.60 per month. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**C. Adopt Policy regarding Commercial Operations.**

The Board has to adopt a policy for determining eligibility for cost-share for commercial operations. After some discussion the Board decided that a producer would show a Schedule F to determine that they are a commercial operation.

**Joyce Jimerson moved that the District would request a copy of the operation's Schedule F to determine eligibility as a commercial operation. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**D. TSP Contract Extension.**

George explained that the TSP contract with NRCS to do status reviews is in need of an extension. The extension shall be sent to the District soon for signature.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize Jerry Van Dellen to sign the TSP contract (65-0546-5-008) extension with NRCS. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**VII. Other Business.**

**A. George Boggs.**

Staff –

George informed the Board that Dawn Bekenyi received recognition of her excellent service award from the WA Conservation Commission. The District received a letter from the Department of Ag praising Chris Clark on his working with them on the Hovander project. The District also received a thank you letter from a landowner who received assistance through the Firewise program. She praised Sonya Schaller and Andrea Hood for their assistance to her.

Upcoming Events –

WACD annual convention – November 29 through December 1, 2005 in Yakima.

Avian Flu Meeting – November 30

Salmon Summit – November 17 in Bellingham

Beaver Report –

George reported that two beaver had been trapped and removed on the Forthun CREP project through the contract with David Vinke.

**B. John Gillies.**

EQIP –

John reported that the local work group would be meeting shortly to plan the upcoming EQIP worksheet. John reviewed the 2005 contract award recipients. He discussed where the point input was placed. Water quality had a lot of points. There is a 27 page ranking criteria.

Chris Clark discussed some of the problems with the program. Producers that only need one thing (storage) don't get enough points to get awarded a contract. There is a lot of outside pressure in developing the EQIP worksheet which can skew points. George suggested that the District could come up with a list of practices that are preferential and work with other Districts to get support for the list. The options for making changes to the worksheet are through changing the points per item or changing the cost-share rates and % paid. After further discussion it was decided that staff would generate a recommendation of practices and send it to the Board for review via email.

**C. Surface Mining Advisory Committee (SMAC).**

Jerry Van Dellen reported that there are currently two members left on the Surface Mining Advisory Committee, one citizen representative and Jerry. The citizen was resigning so that will leave a committee of one.

**VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**05-73 Joyce Jimerson moved that the minutes of the September 8, 2005 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**05-74 Rod Visser 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.**

**05-75**

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**moved by Rod Visser. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

- 05-76 Rod Visser moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Kevin Engelsma (Meadow Park Dairy) reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-77 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Valley Brothers LLC Dairy Nutrient Management Plan that incorporates the land base and facilities all in one binder. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-78 Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contracts with 1. Drayton Archeological Research LLC (Garth Baldwin) for the John Littleton, Barbara Casort, and Mike & Lisa Henniger CREP projects in the amount of \$5,869.57 and 2. Equinox Research and Consulting (Kelly Bush) for the Steve Mach, Katherine Ryan and Mildred Snyder CREP projects in the amount of \$2,973.47. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-79 Rod Visser moved to ratify the CREP contracts for John Davies (04-04-CR02:5-27), Wendy Koehler (04-04-CR02:05-20), Mike Sinlan (04-04-CR02:05-26), Myrtle White (04-04-CR02:05-28) and Steve & Marla Morrow (04-04-CR02:05-21). Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-80 Joyce Jimerson moved that the Whatcom Conservation District accept and sign the contract with Turftenders for lawn care services in the amount of \$216.60 per month. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-81 Joyce Jimerson moved that the District would request a copy of the operation's Schedule F to determine eligibility as a commercial operation. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-82 Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize Jerry Van Dellen to sign the TSP contract (65-0546-5-008) extension with NRCS. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**IX. Adjournment.**

There being no further business before the meeting, Rod Visser moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Dated: November 18, 2005

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Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant