

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2009**

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 April 22, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dick Yoder | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ed Stone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sabina Gouran | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Joe Heller |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Terry Lenssen | | |

Also in attendance were:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | George Boggs, District Manager | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Alex Hall, NRCS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant | | Larry Davis |
| | Dorie Belisle | | |

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Ed Stone acting as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 6:37p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Sabina Gouran moved that the minutes of the March 11, 2009 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

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

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

Joe Heller moved to approve the Financial Report. Sabina Gouran 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:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| March 09 - balance | | | | | |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>16723</u> | through | <u>16737</u> | and totaling | <u>31,458.64</u> |
| Payroll check numbers: | <u>16738</u> | through | <u>16754</u> | and totaling | <u>28,785.99</u> |
| April 2009 | | | | | |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>16755</u> | through | <u>16758</u> | and totaling | <u>2,278.18</u> |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Payroll check numbers: | <u>16759</u> | through | <u>16773</u> | and totaling | <u>27,751.78</u> |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>16774</u> | through | <u>16792</u> | and totaling | <u>9,324.31</u> |

moved by Sabina Gouran. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Introductions of Dorie Belisle and Larry Davis.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

Scott Ditch Confluence Bank Stabilization Project –

The District received funding for the Scott Ditch Confluence Bank Stabilization Project from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The contract is for \$35,000 with \$35,000 in match.

Sabina Gouran moved to approve and sign the contract with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Scott Ditch Confluence Bank Stabilization Project in the amount of \$35,000. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Employee Medical Insurance –

The employee medical plan is scheduled for renewal on May 1, 2009. There is a 7% increase in premiums this year. Dawn reported that she factored in a larger increase into the current budget. Staff met with Deana Lewis, Snapper Shuler Kenner, to review our medical insurance options. This is the final year that the Selections plan will be available. Staff requested that the Board approve renewing the current plan. George shared the staff's wishes and the budget numbers reflected in the premium increase. The Board decided to renew the current medical plan.

Sabina Gouran moved to approve the current medical plan with the 7% increase in premiums. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Inter-local Agreement with Okanogan Conservation District –

An Inter-local Agreement with the Okanogan Conservation District to share personnel was submitted for approval. The District had an inter-local that expired. Okanogan was requesting that it be renewed.

Sabina Gouran moved to approve and sign the inter-local agreement with Okanogan CD. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Other Action Items.

Annual Plan of Work –

George reviewed the budget for the annual plan of work. He reviewed the actions and employee time estimated. There was discussion regarding stakeholder meetings George attended. Dorie suggested that the annual plan include a line item for working with crop and berry growers. It will be added.

Joe Heller moved to approve the annual plan of work. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Good Governance Grant –

The Good Governance grant is formerly called Basic Funding from the Conservation Commission. The board completed all of the items required under the Good Governance grant. The application was approved and signed.

Sabina Gouran moved to approve and sign the Good Governance grant application. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Internal Audit –

Sabina and Joe conducted the internal audit with Dawn. Joe said that Dawn has things well organized. He reported to the Board that there were no action items coming out of the internal audit.

WSDA Director –

Terry, Ed, Joe and George attended the dinner meeting with the new WS Dept of Ag Director, Dan Newhouse. Dan is a hop farmer from the Yakima area. He seems receptive to input. There was a good Conservation District personnel turnout for the event. Joe and George had heard Dan speak at WACD legislative days.

Joe –

Joe went to WACD legislative days in Olympia with George and Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District Manager. They met with legislators from our area. Joe wanted to thank George, Carolyn and Susan from San Juan Conservation District. They presented a good message to the legislature about how Conservation Districts can get stuff done on the ground. We don't just plan, we produce results. It was an effective presentation. The budget out of the state was very positive due to Kelli Linville's hard work.

Joe informed the Board of the Tree Farm of the Year recipient in Mason County. They have 7,000 acres of trees, raise beef and have shellfish beds. It was impressive.

Joe would also like to thank Senator Brandland for the Livestock Cost-share.

The Board thanked Joe for going to Olympia.

B. Alex Hall, NRCS.

EQIP –

The EQIP cost-list is finalized and out. Staff will begin to rank the applicants. There were changes in ranking priority due to air quality and energy concerns. 11% of the state EQIP funding was allocated for the NW area. The national deadline for contracts is July 15, 2009. The 2010 sign-up deadline is the end of July 2009.

TSP –

Response from Conservation Districts to use TSP funds has been good. NRCS needs more help with their workload. The state is exploring using TSP funds for other activities, such as administrative assistance.

WHIP –

Five applications turned in last year were deferred into this year. The state received double the funding this year from last year. The typical WHIP project is a culvert replacement. WHIP is quick cost-share for riparian and wetland projects with no long term commitment unlike CREP. The state is looking for applications to show a need for the project and gather further funding.

Local Work Group (LWG) Meeting –

Alex attended the state-wide meeting prior to the local work group meetings. There was a rundown on how all of the local work groups are run. Our area seems to work pretty well compared to some others. Alex reported on some LWG policy changes. The local work group is now open to non-government entities. Non-profit, environmental groups, etc can now give input to the local work group.

The LWG will meet in the near future to discuss 2010 sign-up and applications. This would be the time for proposals for new practices to be approved by the state to implement or make an eligible practice.

C. George Boggs.

Whatcom Cattlemen's Association Meeting –

Chuck and George attended the Whatcom Cattlemen's Association meeting. They gave a presentation on small farm planning. It helped to dispel some incorrect information regarding farm planning that was floating around. There were about 20 people in attendance. Nichole Embertson will present at next month's meeting. She was unable to make this meeting due to a prior commitment at the Western Association of Dairy Farmers meeting in New Mexico.

Gravel Mining Tour –

George attended a gravel mining tour in Canada hosted by Roger Bajema. Representatives from Whatcom County and other agencies attended. There were 5 car groups. A group takes ½ million tons of gravel a year out of the Fraser River near Agassi on Seabird Island. The activity included ongoing monitoring and habitat requirements. The gravel removal has increased habitat in the area. The cost is \$1 million a year which is maintained in flood fees. There is a public safety issue in Canada to remove the gravel.

How does this equate to the Nooksack River? There is not the public safety factor as in Canada due to flood potential. Sediment budget and biological opinions would need to be conducted. We would have to work closely with the Tribes to see if gravel removal would be possible. The Tribes want more large woody debris in the South Fork. How much wood can you put into the river without causing flood impacts?

Budget –

We will know more later about our budget.

Fisheries Program –

George invited the Board to attend a fisheries tour at Bellingham Technical College. Sabina said that she would like to attend.

Employee Manual –

Everyone appears to be very busy. George suggested that he make some suggested changes to the employee manual and seek input. There is no urgency to revise at this time.

Copier –

With the purchase of the new copier, we have the old one to dispose of. A market search showed that it may be worth a few hundred dollars. George asked to permission to list the older copier on Craig's list or another way to sell.

The new copier is working very well.

WACD Resolutions –

Joe asked about the status of our WACD resolutions on diesel emissions and CREP grazing. It was pointed out that it would be helpful to have Board representation at the Local Work Group meeting to push for changes on the diesel engines.

Business Cards –

The Board requested business cards for Supervisors.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

09-34 Sabina Gouran moved that the minutes of the March 11, 2009 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

09-35 Joe Heller moved to approve the Financial Report. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

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09-40 Joe Heller moved to approve the annual plan of work. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

09-41 Sabina Gouran moved to approve and sign the Good Governance grant application. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Sabina Gouran moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Dated: June 1, 2009

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____