

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2004**

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 8, 2004, at 12:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Barker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fred Tjoelker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cornelius Timmermans
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rod Visser		

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		Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor
	Stu Trefry, Conservation Commission		Alan Chapman, Lummi Nat. Resources
	Randy Kinley, Supervisor-Elect		

III. Presiding Officers

Robert Barker as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:15 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Rod Visser moved that the minutes of the March 11, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Correspondence

Farm Friends – 2004 Dues notice.

Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve payment of \$100 annual Farm Friend Dues. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NSEA – Copy of NSEA's Annual Report.

WADE – Registration packet for WADE Annual training in Leavenworth, WA on June 14-16. 2004.

Conservation Commission – District Satisfaction Survey, included Supervisor information and handbook.

George introduced Stu Trefry to the Board.

VI. Treasurer's Report.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented a Financial Report containing Income and Expenses, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Analysis effective April 8, 2004 a copy of which is attached hereto.

Rod Visser moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Review and approval of payment of District invoices and incurred expenses, as listed in the Treasurer's Report. 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 2004 – balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12036</u>	through	<u>12046</u>	and totaling	<u>39,282.54</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>12047</u>	through	<u>12060</u>	and totaling	<u>18,281.65</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12061</u>	through	<u>12082</u>	and totaling	<u>18,413.86</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>12083</u>	through	<u>12097</u>	and totaling	<u>18,508.67</u>

moved by Rod Visser. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Reports Committees.

A. Supervisor Activities.

Jerry Van Dellen –

Jerry attended the Surface Mining Advisory Committee meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2004. Students from Western Washington University are working on a project to assess the mining resources in Whatcom County. Jerry and George reviewed who was on the Surface Mining Advisory Committee board.

Robert Barker –

Bob attended the CREP meeting in Ellensburg with George Boggs, Sabina Gouran and Andrew Phay. The Whatcom Conservation District played a key role in the CREP committee. WCD collated all of the state CREP data for the past five years. Enrollment in the program had been suspended until the Office of Financial Management (OFM) was assured the Commission had good funding numbers. The enrollment was opened up again in March 2004. The \$4 million received is available immediately so the CREP committee was working on allocating cost-share for new and existing projects. They were also working on a recommendation for the Conservation Commission regarding Technical Assistance funding for next year. A CREP maintenance policy is being developed statewide. The Board can make comments. George discussed the details of the policy including hold down rates. Any necessary excesses would come to the Board for approval to request a variance from the Conservation Commission.

Rod Hamilton, FSA, was asked if there was an opportunity to update the CREP eligibility map. He said this would be possible as long as the co-managers wish to update the maps. The CREP program agreement between the State and Federal Government currently runs through December 31, 2007.

B. George Boggs.

Small Farm Planning - The two trial plans developed by N₃ have been written. One is complete and the second is awaiting landowner review and approval. George suggested that the District contract with N₃ for \$4,999 to do small farm planning.

Cornie Timmermans moved that the District enter into a contract with N₃ for \$4,999 to write small farm plans. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Livestock Committee – George participated in the Pond Liner Work Group along with Chris Clark and Erica Fifer. NRCS's examples given did not quite reflect Whatcom County's

experience. We have secured an agreement by NRCS for revisions and adjustments to the seepage model. Chris is providing info in this regard.

George was asked to attend a special meeting of Cattlemen's Association and WACD representatives in April. He will accompany WACD Vice president, Fred Colvin, and WACD Livestock Co-chair, Bobbi Lindemuller to Ellensburg.

Drainage Improvement District (DID) – George acted as liaison between DID #7 and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). George worked with Ed Pomeroy and Kevin Maddux (DID #7 Commissioners) to obtain an emergency HPA from WDFW. George explained the drainage problem to the Board. A meeting was convened with Kelli Linville, representatives from WDFW, WC Engineering and DID commissioners. It was agreed that the Drainage District can mitigate on another site within the DID boundaries. This would allow them to do work where it would provide maximum fish benefit. A conditional "limited work" HPA was obtained for the do dredging on the Maddux property.

District Committee Seats – George reviewed the local committees that the District has a seat on. Todd Jones has agreed to represent the District on the WC Ag Advisory Committee. Jerry Van Dellen is serving on the Surface Mining Advisory Committee. There is still a vacancy on the Salmon Habitat Recovery Citizens Advisory Committee.

C. John Gillies.

EQIP – NRCS is still trying to work through the EQIP contracts getting ready to award them.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) – John is on the PDR committee. The committee talked about where the program is going. Dale Goresenger and Howard Holz's projects are still on the table.

Ag Advisory Committee – John is also on the Ag Advisory Committee. The committee was reviewing the number of parcels zoned Rural 5-20 acres. A lot of this zone is currently in agriculture.

Manure Spill – John reported that a landowner on the south fork of Dakota Creek. A valve flowing from the underground tank to the manure pond reversed and backed up into the tank overflowing. The landowner took action when he noticed the problem to contain the spill. The culvert was blocked and the manure was sucked up with a tanker truck. The actual run-off went into an irrigation pond, so was contained. All the necessary agency people, including WA Dept of Health, were notified of the incident. Water quality samples were taken downstream in Dakota Creek. All were well below the state standards for bacteria.

Cultural Resources Workshop – The entire NRCS office attended three-day training on Cultural Resources. They were directed to coordinate with SHPO and the tribes. John explained that a cultural resources assessment needs to be done on any NRCS or FSA projects that have a "hit" (known site) within a nine-mile radius.

VIII. Special Items.

A. Approval Small Farm Plan.

N₃ completed the first of two small farm plans directed by the Board to complete. John reviewed the plan and gave his comments to Joy Hawley for incorporating into the plan.

Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve and sign the small farm plan for Dale Christofferson. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. CREP Task Force Grant.

The Conservation Commission asked the District to administer a small grant for the CREP Task Force committee members' mileage.

Cornie Timmermans moved to approve and sign the CREP Task Force contract with the Conservation Commission for \$3,000. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Stu Trefry, Conservation Commission.

Stu Trefry came to do our District Operations Review. Early in the day Stu met with George and Dawn and reviewed the checklist to determine if the District were following the necessary operational procedures. During the Exit Interview, Stu commended the Supervisors and staff of the WCD on their adherence to the law. He stated that the Commission finds that this District continues to be an outstanding example of a well run, effective, customer friendly local government. A few additions to the personnel manual due to law changes were recommended. Stu passed the exit notification around for Board and administrative staff signature.

D. Annual Plan of Work.

Several items needed to be addressed to complete the Basic Funding application. Dawn passed around a draft Annual Plan of Work for 2004-05 based on our existing Long Range Plan and reflecting our current grants. The Board reviewed and approved.

Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve the Annual Plan of Work for 2004-05. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Election of Officers.

Nominations for Chair were opened. Rod Visser moved to nominate Bob Barker for Chair. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. There being no further nominations.

Cornie Timmermans moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bob Barker for District Chair. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nominations for Vice-Chair were opened. Cornie Timmermans moved to nominate Jerry Van Dellen for Vice-Chair. Rod Visser seconded the motion. There being no further nominations.

Cornie Timmermans moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Jerry Van Dellen for District Vice-Chair. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nominations for Treasurer were opened. Jerry Van Dellen moved to nominate Rod Visser for Treasurer. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. There being no further nominations.

Jerry Van Dellen moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Rod Visser for District Treasurer. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. Internal Audit Committee.

The annual internal audit needed to be completed. Rod Visser and Cornie Timmermans agreed to serve on the Internal Audit Committee and would schedule a date in April with Dawn.

There was discussion regarding an article regarding nitrate and Whatcom County.

IX. Record of Board Actions.

04-21 Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve payment of \$100 annual Farm Friend Dues. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-22 Rod Visser moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

04-23

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

March 2004 – balance

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04-24 Cornie Timmermans moved that the District enter into a contract with N₃ for \$4,999 to write small farm plans. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-25 Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve and sign the small farm plan for Dale Christofferson. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-26 Cornie Timmermans moved to approve and sign the CREP Task Force contract with the Conservation Commission for \$3,000. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-27 Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve the Annual Plan of Work for 2004-05. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-28 Cornie Timmermans moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bob Barker for District Chair. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-29 Cornie Timmermans moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Jerry Van Dellen for District Vice-Chair. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-30 Jerry Van Dellen moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Rod Visser for District Treasurer. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Cornie Timmermans moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Dated: June 3, 2004

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant