

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2008**

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 August 13, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Stone
<input 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		Robert Barker, Associate Supervisor

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Dick Yoder as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 6:35 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the July 9, 2008 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 July 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. Ed Stone 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:

July 2008 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16103</u>	through	<u>16190</u>	and totaling	<u>137,614.05</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16191</u>	through	<u>16204</u>	and totaling	<u>25,228.85</u>
August 2008					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16205</u>	through	<u>16219</u>	and totaling	<u>10,225.38</u>

Payroll check numbers: 16220 through 16233 and totaling 24,725.12
moved by Joe Heller. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Critical Areas Ordinance Plans –

Chuck Timblin wrote a Conservation Farm Plan for Ranjit “Raj” Kahlon, a berry grower that meets Critical Areas Ordinance requirements. George reviewed the inputs and concerns addressed in the plan, including sediment impacts on fish bearing streams, pest management, irrigation management and crop nutrient requirements. He recommends approval.

Ed Stone moved to approve the CAO farm plan for Ranjit Kahlon. Joe Heller 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 its approval. The Board approved the standard-language contract.

There were five new projects submitted for Board approval.

Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Virginia Naef (08-04-CR:08-08), Cynthia Rogers & Will Lesh (08-04-CR:08-09), Daniel & Gladys Wilcox (08-04-CR:08-12), Daniel & Rosa Campos (08-04-CR:08-10) and William & Janet Busch (08-04-CR:08-13). Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Contracts.

MOU with Skagit Conservation District –

Skagit CD sent a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between Whatcom Conservation District and Skagit Conservation District for renewal for another year. George gave the background of the MOU and how it differs with others that we have with Conservation Districts. There is some watersheds cross the county boundaries that allowed allocation of work in the South Fork Nooksack River watershed to Whatcom CD and Samish River watershed to Skagit CD.

Joe Heller moved to approve the MOU with Skagit Conservation District. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. 2008-09 Budget.

The 2008-09 budget was revised and passed out to the Board for review. The questions brought up last month were addressed. The Board approved the budget.

Ed Stone moved to approve the 2008-09 Budget. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

George explained that the contract renewal for USDA rental of the office has been received. The USDA opted to exercise the contract renewal clause for another 5 years. There is a provision for adjustment due to building expenses. The worksheet is being calculated to determine if an adjustment should be sought.

D. SLIM Employee.

George reported that the interview committee conducted two telephone interviews. George, Dick, Bob and Alex gave their impressions of the interviewees. Nicole was the candidate that received the most favorable review. She expressed the interest in coming to Washington to see about the job. Nicole currently lives in Colorado. Ed Stone expressed the desire to do an "in person" interview prior to hiring. There was discussion regarding the positive aspects of Nichole's credentials and interview. After some discussion the Board agreed to bring Nichole out to Washington to interview and give her a head start on the Livestock program and farm planning process. She will meet with the Board as well as various farmers and agency personnel to see about compatibility for the position.

Ed Stone moved to approve authorizing \$1,000 to cover the expense of brining the candidate to Washington for an "in person" interview and "get to know you" session to determine desire to offer employment. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Dick Yoder –

Staff met to discuss recommendations for next year's EQIP cost-share practice list. Alex reviewed the recommendations that staff brought forth. A copy of the current cost-list and staff recommendations were passed out for Board review and comment.

Forestry practices need to be looked at. Joe will talk with Al Craney, Skagit CD, regarding potential recommendations. The Local Work Group has set aside funds for forestry projects. Alex said that there will be more emphasis on fire prevention this round. A community wildfire plan for Skagit has been written. George expressed that EQIP could dovetail with the Firewise program.

Alex would like to discuss the draft recommendations at the September Board meeting.

There was discussion regarding Forest Stewardship Plans. One is needed for EQIP funding. Joe mentioned that a landowner can get a 15 yr harvest permit with a Forest Stewardship Plan.

Robert Barker –

Bob and Chris Clark attended a meeting in Tacoma regarding anaerobic digesters. Studies have shown that anaerobic digesters do not work efficiently on just cow manure or food wastes. They mixture is much more effective i.e. generating methane gas. The addition of food wastes means that the Department of Ecology and Ag and Dept of Health get involved as far as regulations are concerned. At the meeting there was discussion on how to get the various agencies involved agreeing on how anaerobic digesters are regulated and their various roles. A producers plan should include what components go into the digester and where the food wastes would come from. Terry mentioned that the compost coming out of the digester is high in Ph. It is too "hot" to go directly on fields. It fries the crops. There needs to be a way cut the compost for field application.

B. Alex Hall, NRCS.

EQIP –

Alex reported that there were 22 applications for 2009 EQIP. They have been ranked but can not be entered into the software at this time. They may need to do a hand tally to determine a rough estimate of the funds needed for the area. There are 197 practices scheduled for implementation for this year. It may be winter 2009 before they get the funds out on practices. There is a lot of construction going on now.

Wetlands Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) –

No Whatcom county projects were funded this year due to lack of funds. The applications will be deferred until next year.

C. George Boggs.

Up Coming Meetings –

A meeting of the NW Area conservation Districts will be September 4 at the Farm House Inn in Skagit County.

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) NW Area meeting will be in October in Mt. Vernon.

The WACD Annual Convention is scheduled for December 1 – 3 in Wenatchee.

Nitrates in Ground Water –

George attended a nutrient management field day at the DeHaan's. There is concern in Washington and Canada regarding high nitrates in ground water. The study showed that the 590 specs work. The nitrate levels in drinking water are not high. Test of shallow wells show a flush of nitrogen into the soils when crops are plowed in. There is discussion regarding doing trials to try various things to do before planting to stop the flush of nitrogen. George discussed the possibility of a Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) being formed in the north Lynden area.

Drainage Improvement District (DID) Manual and Fact Sheets –

Frank Corey and George are working on the DID manual and fact sheets. The draft manual is complete and they have completed about half of the fact sheets. George reviewed the process.

Planning –

George reported that Ed is taking a business class. He is currently drafting a 5 year strategy plan for the Conservation District. This will be helpful next year when we redo our long range plan of work.

Energy Resource Scarcity –

George reported on the County meeting. Need to address land use in communities. Change land uses to protect ag. Need farmland to produce food, fiber and energy.

Meetings –

Chris and George are scheduled to meet with Bill Angel, Department of Health, regarding regulations and farming on August 15.

September 22 is the Livestock Stakeholders meeting in Olympia.

August 28 is a Peak Oil meeting. There are four sectors to work on. This meeting will address the Agriculture sector. The group is looking for farmers to contribute to the Energy Scarcity meeting. The City of Bellingham and Whatcom County have a joint task force to review energy issues.

Verizon –

George reviewed the most recent correspondence with Verizon's insurance carrier regarding the parking lot issue.

CREP report –

George passed out the CREP program report and glossary to the Board.

District Truck –

George was asked about the status of Ford 250. It has not been listed yet. Terry mentioned that the market is very slow. Most dealers are not taking large trucks like that at this time. They aren't selling.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

08-67 Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the July 9, 2008 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

08-68 Joe Heller moved to approve the Financial Report. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

08-69

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08-72 Joe Heller moved to approve the MOU with Skagit Conservation District. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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08-74 Ed Stone moved to approve authorizing \$1,000 to cover the expense of brining the candidate to Washington for an "in person" interview and "get to know you" session to determine desire to offer employment. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Joe Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Dated: September 16, 2008

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____