

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
December 16, 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 December 16, 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		Dean Martin, WC PDS

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.

Joe Heller moved that the minutes of the November Board meeting be approved as mailed. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

The financial report was mailed to the Board with their draft minutes from the November 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. Joe Heller 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:

Nov 2008 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16436</u>	through	<u>16440</u>	and totaling	<u>12,194.88</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16441</u>	through	<u>16453</u>	and totaling	<u>24,378.32</u>
December 2008					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16454</u>	through	<u>16468</u>	and totaling	<u>97,530.94</u>

Payroll check numbers:	<u>16469</u>	through	<u>16482</u>	and totaling	<u>25,183.66</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16483</u>		<u>16500</u>		<u>3,429.61</u>

moved by Ed Stone. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

Capacity Building Grant –

The Capacity Building Grant application was due during the WACD convention. It needed to be reviewed by our Regional Manager, Stu Trefry. Dick, Terry and Joe reviewed the application prior to submittal.

Joe Heller moved to ratify approval of the Capacity Building grant application. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NW Incident Management Team –

The NW Incident Management Team (NWIMT) is an "all hazards" team serving a 5-county area in northwest Washington State. An Incident Management Team (IMT) is a team of highly trained, experienced and credentialed people that can come together and deploy with appropriate equipment and personnel. The team functions under the National Incident Management System to support the incident management needs of local communities and agencies when requested during major emergency events. NWIMT can be deployed to support a variety of emergencies, including natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, wildfires, volcanoes, etc. The team can also be deployed to support incidents involving terrorism, natural gas leaks, train derailments, plane crashes, etc.

The NWIMT is looking for GIS Technicians to become part of the team. Andrew is interested in becoming a member of the team to help them with their GIS needs. If selected for the position he would be deployed with the team. The past deployments ranged from 1-5 days.

For Andrew to be eligible for the position the WCD would need to become a member of the NWIMT and sign an inter-local agreement with the other members. As a special district the financial responsibilities would be \$250/yr membership fee and Andrew's time in some instances listed below.

- Deployed to member agency area – District would pay for first 72 hours.
- Deployed to non-member agency area – that agency would reimburse.
- Deployed to Eastern Washington wildfire incident – State reimburses.
- Deployed for Federal Disaster – FEMA reimburses.

The training the Team members receive would be excellent knowledge for Andrew and the District in the instance we have an emergency incident in this county dealing with agriculture or other issues related to the WCD.

If Andrew is not selected for the position on the Team he may be selected as an alternate to be called up for wildfire incidents if they need GIS help.

There was discussion by the Board. The Board agrees that it is a good idea for the District to participate on the team not only to serve the community but also to build capacity as an emergency responder. Lewis CD helped rural landowners after this past winters floods.

Joe Heller moved to approve the District and Andrew Phay's involvement in the Northwest Incident Management Team, including an inter-local agreement with NWIMT. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Andrew will apply for membership to the NWIMT. If accepted an inter-local agreement will be signed.

Community Salmon Fund Grant –

Sonya received informal notice that the CD will be awarded a Community Salmon Recovery Grant for its proposed Homesteader Project. This project will improve habitat with in-stream work and riparian planting in the Black Slough Watershed. Partners contributing additional resources to the project include the Nooksack Indian Tribe, Whatcom Land Trust and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA). CREP will also be implemented on the project site.

Joe Heller moved to authorized the District Chair to sign the Community Salmon Fund grant contract become available for the Homesteader Creek Project. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP Contracts –

There was one project submitted for Board approval. It is an assignment and assumption of the Hendrickson CREP project.

Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contract for Doug & Becky Ross (formerly Kyle Hendrickson - 08-04-CR:08-31). Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Conservation Plans.

One Dairy Nutrient Management Plan was submitted for Board approval.

Joe Heller moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Farm plan for Larry Stap. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Two dairy nutrient farm plans were submitted for certification.

Joe Heller moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plans for Carl Camping and South Fork Investments (Jeff Rainey) reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of Contracts (cont).

Whatcom County CPAL Contract –

George informed the Board that Whatcom County has given the District another CPAL contract for 2 years for \$110,000 per year. The new contract will include development of a moderate checklist as well as continued low impact planning. The template for moderate commercial (non-dairy) plans will be vetted through Whatcom County's Ag Committee. The Board discussed Critical Areas Ordinance planning, farming and livestock or crop farmers. To date crop farmers have escaped scrutiny. The Board was pleased to hear that resources will be developed and available for non-livestock farmers should they be called upon to protect critical areas.

There was discussion regarding air pollution (dust). Terry mentioned that a crop field near him was left bare and the dust was very thick during the winds. Dawn mentioned that there had been a complaint made to the Northwest Air Pollution Authority, who had contacted the District regarding BMPs.

Dean Martin, Whatcom County PDS informed the Board that there was good support for the CPAL program and that was the reason that the funding was put back into the budget. Whatcom County Planning and Development Services (WC PDS) sent Amendment #1 extending the completion date of the current CPAL contract until February 28, 2009. This will keep the contract from expiring so that Council can approve the contract at its next meeting in January.

Ed Stone moved to approve Amendment #1 extending the contract expiration date to February 28, 2009. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Clallam Conservation District Inter-local Agreement –

Following Nichole's presentation at WACD, a Clallam CD supervisor approached her to develop an air quality component to a nutrient management plan for one of their dairies. George provided the standard form that has been used with Skagit, Okanogan, Thurston and King CDs. Clallam CD will reimburse the Whatcom Conservation District for Nichole's services to work with a dairy farmer who needs an air quality BMP assessment. Nichole will assess the dairy farmer's operation and make recommendations for improvement or confirm that his farm is using BMPs that address air quality concerns.

Joe Heller moved to approve and sign the inter-local agreement with Clallam Conservation District. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Joe Heller –

Joe, Terry and Dick attended the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) convention. Joe and Terry received new Supervisor certificates. Both resolutions from Whatcom passed through the main session. Chris Clark and Bill Bensen received the Individual Partnership Award from NRCS. Joe discussed the new farm bill with people at the convention. Forestry was a hot topic. There will be new leadership in the Department of Natural Resources starting January 1, 2009.

Terry Lenssen –

Terry did some networking with supervisors that he met from other areas. Terry was very happy to hear compliments from them regarding Whatcom's ability to attract and keep high quality employees. Whatcom has very good employees. The breakout education sessions he attended were good.

Dick Yoder –

Dick was impressed that all Supervisors were allowed to voice their opinions. Dick reported on the change to the CREP livestock grazing proposal. It was changed to "appropriate livestock." George had offered some more information on the proposal at the convention during the main session. The idea was to do flash grazing. The proposal also suggested a pilot project to see if the idea is viable.

Water storage is an issue on the east-side more than on the west-side. George relayed that he came across a trial wetland project in Nebraska to keep water in the system. Drainage water from tiled fields was collected into a constructed wetland then pumped up to higher fields for irrigation. The Board thought this concept should be examined further. George reported that there is tribal support for practices that keep more drainage water in the system so that summer instream flows could be higher.

Dick met the new State Conservationist, Roylene Rides at the Door. She made a good impression. She appears to be a "straight shooter" that is not bashful and wants to solve problems. Dick was also impressed with Krysta Harden, NACD Chief Executive Officer. She also gave very good presentations at the WACD convention.

B. Alex Hall, NRCS.

NRCS Audit –

Alex reported that NRCS is undergoing a financial audit of programs nationwide. Feedback on the nationwide audit is not favorable. They are doing some follow-up, going through all contracts to make sure that all things are in place. NRCS has a new policy on how to schedule practices. The producer has the practice scheduled year and one more to complete the practice. If they do not complete the practice then the contract can be canceled and damages can be sought. The

local office has gone through the 58 current contracts and rescheduled practices in line with the policy. It is difficult to retro-fit the existing contracts into the new contracting policy. They will de-obligate two contracts releasing \$50,000. Most current contracts are still valid. NRCS cancelled all employee leave while the audit is taking place.

NRCS Recognition –

Chris Clark and Bill Bonsen were recognized for their contribution to NRCS and the EQIP program. They have been a great help with NRCS's workload.

EQIP –

The 2009 sign-up will be completed when the audit is done.

TSP –

A new TSP work order for Chris and Bill to do planning, design work and implementation has been written and submitted for signature.

CSP –

The new Farm Bill changed the Conservation Security Program to the Conservation Stewardship Program. Alex did not know much about the changes. There is the potential to use EQIP funds for other agencies with proposals in Geographic Priority Areas.

C. George Boggs.

Modeling Dissolved Oxygen in Puget Sound –

The WA Department of Ecology is developing a water quality model to evaluate the effects of current and potential future nutrient loads may have on dissolved oxygen levels in Puget Sound. The water quality model is a mathematical tool that scientists use to represent a water system. With this tool, scientists can visualize and understand factors that may be contributing to pollution both now and in the future.

Ecology and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will work collaboratively with the US Environmental Protection Agency and advisory groups to conduct the nutrient pollution modeling. The project will create two models for the entire Puget Sound, one at a large scale and one at an intermediate scale. The Puget Sound models will address the question of human sources of nutrients in and around the Puget Sound and how much needs to be reduced. The models will help decision-makers use resources wisely and determine where additional study or action is necessary.

Standardized Conservation Farm Plan Format –

The WA Conservation Commission and WACD have formed a committee to create a standardized Conservation Farm Plan format. The committee has come up with 6 main headings. There is some flexibility for Districts to include subcategories under the main headings. Chris Clark, Chuck Timblin and Nichole Embertson have been a part of the committee. As an outcome of this process our District has revised our Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP) format. A plan summary has been added and easier ways to make changes and/or updates to the farm plans have been considered. Staff should have a new format completed by the end of December.

Other questions being addressed is the sufficiency of our current DNMPs. George has tasked staff to revisit the DNMPs and their knowledge of science and farm structures with a goal to make recommendations regarding manure application and T-sum 200. George will present any policy change recommendations to the Board. Nichole is also looking at the current vegetative practices and the science that supports them to see if any changes should be made. George further outlined workload in the next few months for the farm planning team.

WACD Legislative Day –

The WACD Legislative Day is scheduled for March 25, 2009. George encouraged the Board to save the date to send representatives.

Drainage Improvement Manual –

A draft of the Drainage Improvement manual was submitted to several agencies for comments. George reported that the comments to date have been good. Whatcom County is currently looking at the draft. Dick asked why people are allowed to eat endangered animals (salmon). George mentioned that others have wondered the same thing.

Budget –

George told the Board that he would review the budget through the end of the fiscal year, June 2009. He will keep the Board informed regarding developments for the next biennium budget.

Ag & Air Quality Strategic Planning Meeting –

Nichole and George are scheduled to attend the Partnership Committee on Ag and the Environment's Ag & Air Quality Strategic Planning Meeting in Vancouver, BC. Nichole will give an air quality presentation. Dick asked to have Nichole give her presentation to the Board at the February Board meeting.

D. Dean Martin.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program –

Dean reported that the PDR sign-up is currently open. It closes at the end of the year. The PDR was also put back into the County budget due to strong support.

Dean gave a brief description of his background for the Board. He worked for a Conservation Commission type agency in Missouri. Following that he worked for Lummi Natural Resources for 2 years. Now he is with Whatcom County working on environmental issues.

Dean mentioned that Missouri has a sales tax of .01% which half goes to Conservation Districts to fund their programs. He thinks this works very well and should be looked into here in Washington.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

08-100 Joe Heller moved that the minutes of the November Board meeting be approved as mailed. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

08-101 Ed Stone moved to approve the Financial Report. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

08-102

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- 08-104 Joe Heller moved to approve the District and Andrew Phay's involvement in the Northwest Incident Management Team, including an inter-local agreement with NWIMT. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
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- 08-110 Joe Heller moved to approve and sign the inter-local agreement with Clallam Conservation District. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Ed Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Dated: January 16, 2009

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____