

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
February 19, 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 February 19, 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 checked="" 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 |
| | Joy Hawley, N ₃ Consulting | | Fred Likkel, N ₃ Consulting |

III. Presiding Officers

Robert Barker as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:00 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Fred Tjoelker moved that the minutes of the December 31, 2003 & January 8, 2004 Board meetings are approved as mailed. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Correspondence

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) – 2004 Dues Quota worksheet and pamphlet of 2003 accomplishments. The Board discussed the role of NACD and its current financial situation.

Jerry Van Dellen moved that the District pay its annual NACD dues in the amount of \$1,000. Fred Tjoelker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Skagit County Farmland Legacy – The District received an invitation to attend the 2004 Washington Ag Summit on March 23, 2004 in Mt Vernon from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They would like an RSVP by March 12th. The Board will revisit this at their March 11th Board meeting.

VI. Treasurer's Report.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented a Financial Report containing Income and Expenses, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Analysis effective February 19, 2004 a copy of which is attached hereto.

CREP – Dawn reviewed the accounts payable and receivable for February. Some time was spent reviewing the budget sheets for the grants. There was discussion about CREP Technical Assistance and Cost-share.

Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Cornie Timmermans 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:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Jan 2004 - balance | | | | | |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>11870</u> | through | <u>11878</u> | and totaling | <u>\$ 18,151.77</u> |
| Payroll check numbers: | <u>11879</u> | through | <u>11893</u> | and totaling | <u>\$ 18,937.03</u> |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>11894</u> | through | <u>11910</u> | and totaling | <u>\$ 51,656.34</u> |
| Payroll check numbers: | <u>11911</u> | through | <u>11924</u> | and totaling | <u>\$ 18,493.79</u> |
| February 2004 | | | | | |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>11925</u> | through | <u>11945</u> | and totaling | <u>\$ 6,996.61</u> |
| Payroll check numbers: | <u>11946</u> | through | <u>11958</u> | and totaling | <u>\$ 16,593.16</u> |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>11959</u> | through | <u>11967</u> | and totaling | <u>\$ 47,026.96</u> |

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

VII. Reports Committees.

A. Supervisor Activities.

Bob Barker –

Bob has worked on the CREP issues with staff. They are developing a new policy for CREP maintenance. The goal is to decrease cost-share and maintenance expenses. It was decided that effective maintenance can be accomplished in three years rather than five. The proposed policy identifies caps for practices and ranges of costs. The draft CREP maintenance policy will be ready for review at the March 11th Board meeting. The state CREP Committee is working on what expenses are reasonable. The state would like to do a state-wide maintenance policy, as well.

B. George Boggs.

CREP – George presented information on the status of the State's CREP program. Almost one half of \$20 million has been spent. There will be a \$250,000 shortfall by June without more funding than originally in the Governor's budget.

WACD Officers and Directors Meeting – The Plant Materials Center is losing money. The PMC intends to develop a strategic marketing plan with District input. There is a question of if the problem is an efficiency issue. The PMC wants to deed the nursery from Skagit CD to the WACD. Skagit will get a legal opinion on this. George will try to get the information to share with the Board.

Legislative Issues – George met with the legislators when he was in Olympia for the Conservation Commission meeting. It is a tight financial year. The livestock program was given a lukewarm reception. The industry is not in support of the program at this time.

National Legislative Issues – Conservation Security Program (CSP) – Lynn Brown, Conservation Commission, is the Chair of the task force to lead and coordinate the WACD national legislative agenda for 2004. The task force is asking for input from Districts. George suggested that the Board make comments. There is a movement to make this program an incentive program. It would be better to keep it as a reward program not an incentive program.

There needs to be more money in the CSP program or it is a waste of resources trying to administer the amount of funding.

319 - The other program of concern is the 319 funding. This program is critical for our District and others. These funds help augment the DOE Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) program.

Computer Network – The District currently shares a network system with NRCS and FSA. We were informed by NRCS's state IT people to disconnect our modem, which is how the District sends and receives our email. George explained that we will need to buy some hardware to fix this problem.

Fred Tjoelker authorized George to purchase hardware to do what is necessary to solve the network problem. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Staff Issues – George briefly reviewed grant commitments for small farm planning and CREP and current staffing. He discussed the unknown CREP budget for next fiscal year and the staffing options.

VIII. Special Items.

A. Formal Approval & Certification of Dairy Nutrient Farm Plans.

Fred Tjoelker moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Brian Tjoelker (Forest Grove Farm) that was reviewed and submitted for Board approval. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Cornie Timmermans moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plans for JM Dairy (Roger Richner – 9933) and Paul Elgersma (9555) reviewed by staff and submitted for Board certification. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. N3 Presentation.

Joy Hawley and Fred Likkel came to speak to the Board about the possibility of N₃ providing contracted services to complete some grant deliverables. They gave an overview of services that N₃ has provided for Conservation Districts and landowners. N₃ has done small farm planning, nutrient management and water quality testing. Joy and Fred gave the background of N₃'s employees in the Ag community. It was decided that the District would hire N₃ to complete two small farm plans on a trial basis.

Fred Tjoelker authorized George to contract with N₃ to do two small farm plans. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. John Gillies.

Drayton Harbor Shellfish Recovery Advisory Committee – John gave an overhead presentation and discussed the November applications of liquid manure and the analysis of the impact to Drayton Harbor. John explained the decision to extend the manure application date. The decision had been reviewed by the Department of Ag and Department of Ecology prior to giving farmers the go-ahead. In retrospect the Department of Health should have been contacted as well. John mentioned that Canadian officials came up with the same recommendation to extend the liquid manure application date to November 15th independent of our office. George discussed the potential to set up “conditional shellfish bed closures” if we can provide the supporting statistics to back it up.

EQIP – The EQIP ranking was completed in large part thanks to the efforts of Chris and Chuck. The next step is to figure out who gets the funds. Ten or 12 people may get funded this year.

After some discussion it was decided to have the Board meeting at the regularly scheduled time in March.

IX. Record of Board Actions.

04-5 Fred Tjoelker moved that the minutes of the December 31, 2003 & January 8, 2004 Board meetings are approved as mailed. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-6 Jerry Van Dellen moved that the District pay its annual NACD dues in the amount of \$1,000. Fred Tjoelker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-7 Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

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04-10 Fred Tjoelker moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Brian Tjoelker (Forest Grove Farm) that was reviewed and submitted for Board approval. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-11 Cornie Timmermans moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plans for JM Dairy (Roger Richner – 9933) and Paul Elgersma (9555) reviewed by staff and submitted for Board certification. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-12 Fred Tjoelker authorized George to contract with N₃ to do two small farm plans. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Rod Visser moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Fred Tjoelker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Dated: March 26, 2004

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant