

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2007**

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 June 13, 2007, at 12:15 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabina Gouran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Jimerson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Stone		

Also in attendance were:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs, District Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joy Hawley, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:15 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the May 9, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

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

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

Dick Yoder 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:

May 2007 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15013</u>	through	<u>15031</u>	and totaling	<u>29,645.91</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>15032</u>	through	<u>15046</u>	and totaling	<u>21,750.86</u>
June 2007					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15047</u>	through	<u>15060</u>	and totaling	<u>4,127.57</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>15061</u>	through	<u>15075</u>	and totaling	<u>21,460.02</u>

Voucher (check) number 15076 and totaling 100.00
moved by Dick Yoder. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Three dairy nutrient management plans were submitted for approval.

Ed Stone moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plans for Lloyd Winterberg, Tim Vander Veen, and South Fork Investment (Jeff Rainey) reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Contracts.

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 two standard-language contracts, one is new and one is a succession to an existing project.

Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Lela Hugill (06-04-CR01:07-01) and Richard Bailey (06-04-CR01:07-17) succession to the Daisy Manthey project. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP Cultural Resources Assessments –

There are two CREP applicants that need to have cultural resource assessment done on their proposed project. The District sends out requests for bids to a list of certified archeologists. From those that respond the District selects the lowest bidder. The District enters into an agreement for the cultural resource assessment with the contractor. The contracts for the Stan Honrud and Brian Hrutfiord CREP projects were presented to the Board for approval.

Dick Yoder moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contracts with Drayton Archeological Research LLC (Garth Baldwin) for the Stan Honrud CREP project in the amount of \$740 and with Rosario Archeological (Mark Hovezak) for the Brian Hrutfiord CREP project in the amount of \$1,500.00. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Other Contracts –

The WA Conservation Commission has developed a master grant contract application this year. Due to a shift in funding source at the state level the funding will be given for one year. Funding levels for CREP, Puget Sound and Farm Plan Implementation were reviewed. Livestock funding is to be determined. The Board approved and signed the application and Authorized Signature Form.

Joyce Jimerson moved to approve and sign the Conservation Commission Master Grant application and Authorized Signatures form. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Other.

Work Study Intern –

Katie Schouten showed interest in a summer work study internship at our office. Dawn reviewed the details of the program that she obtained from Seattle Pacific University (SPU). The summer work study contract is \$8,000 with 65% reimbursement from SPU. Dawn will complete the necessary paperwork.

Joyce Jimerson moved that the District hire an intern for the summer work study program at \$13.50 per hour following the completion of all necessary paperwork. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Network Server –

Our network server is getting old and slowing down. We are experiencing problems which are affecting productivity. An analysis has been done by 3-D Corporation. They recommended it be replaced. Informal bids were obtain for a replacement. 3-D Corporation came in low bid (\$11,032.00), which included installation services with server for the price of server alone quoted by others. The WA Conservation Commission agreed to use some of our existing grant funds to assist with purchase of a new server.

Joyce Jimerson moved to accept the bid of \$11,032 from 3-D Corporation to purchase a network server. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP maintenance Vander Veen Project –

Diane Vander Veen approached the District asking for some additional maintenance on blackberries in the John Vander Veen CREP project. The project is beyond the 5 year maintenance agreement contract. Any additional maintenance would have to be approved by the WA Conservation Commission. There was discussion by the Board regarding the difficulty of eradicating blackberries. Blackberries will not go away with “one time” maintenance. George explained that the District has met their legal obligation regarding maintenance on the project. Sabina pointed out that a portion of the landowner’s annual rental payment (approximately \$6-8 per acre) is designated for maintenance of the CREP buffer and that the District/State took care of the first five years while the landowner received payment for maintenance. After further discussion the Board concluded that the maintenance of blackberries was the landowner’s responsibility.

Sabina Gouran moved that the District decline the landowners request for additional maintenance for the John Vander Veen CREP project. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Ed Stone –

Frank Corey and Bill Bonsen did the survey of water depth at the Stone property. George passed out the survey graph and reviewed. There is little or no fall (slope) in the valley. It doesn’t take too much too much of an obstruction to result in significant. Beaver deceivers as a solution to flooding were discussed. The issue of fish passage limitations in traditional beaver deceivers was brought up. Ed had a model of a design he saw used on a project in Chilliwack, British Columbia. The Canadian beaver deceiver has wire mesh that would allow fish passage. The District will submit the necessary paperwork to obtain permits to install a beaver deceiver and lower water levels. We will work with Stone and Thomas to determine the desired water level.

B. Joy Hawley, NRCS.

Joy informed the Board that NRCS has hired a person to fill the vacant Resource Conservationist position. Alex Hall is from Maryland. He has worked with chicken and small farms. Alex will start on July 9, 2007.

C. George Boggs.

Carbon Sequestration Project –

George met with Rob Janicki and Carolyn Kelly regarding the carbon sequestration project. Janicki is still interested in the project. They are making a pelletizer in Hamilton. The Ruckelshaus Institution received only \$½ million for projects this year. The project is still alive, but we don’t know about funding.

State Route 9 –

In widening State Route 9 the Department of Transportation (DOT) has impacted the drainage on several farms in Sumas. The DOT is removing ditches to avoid accidents where people go in the ditch. It looks like the DOT will enter into an agreement with District and farmers to install drainage tiles. Bill Bonsen and Chris Clark will do the design work.

Bertrand Creek Drainage –

Some developers are putting in under-sized culverts with there new construction. This is caused drainage issues in Bertrand Creek.

TSP –

George reported that the District and NRCS are developing a new TSP agreement to continue to employ Bill Bonsen beyond September.

EPA Asbestos Meeting –

George and Sonya Schaller are meeting with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the asbestos issue in Sumas. They hope to identify and quantify the risks. Hopefully there will be a solution to offer personal protections when doing work in the effected area. Planting trees along the buffer will keep winds from stirring up the dust. George is hopeful that a solution can be reached.

Budget –

George distributed the draft 2007-08 budget. Dawn reviewed the color coding. George reviewed the budget. Some funds (livestock and County) are still in question. George reviewed the options on how the WA Conservation Commission may divide the Livestock Technical Assistance funds. George also discussed the issues with the Whatcom County contract.

Livestock Cost-share –

There was discussion on how the District should precede with cost-share applications for Livestock operations. The WA Conservation Commission has not decided how to distribute the funds to Conservation Districts yet. In the recent past cost-share funds have been distributed by the WA Conservation Commission on a first come, first served basis. After much discussion the Board decided to solicit a list of cost-share applicants through newsletter and other means to show interest.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

07-39 Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the May 9, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

07-40 Dick Yoder 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.

07-41

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Voucher (check) number	<u>15076</u>			and totaling	<u>100.00</u>

moved by Dick Yoder. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- 07-42 Ed Stone moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plans for Lloyd Winterberg, Tim Vander Veen, and South Fork Investment (Jeff Rainey) reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-43 Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Lela Hugill (06-04-CR01:07-01) and Richard Bailey (06-04-CR01:07-17) succession to the Daisy Manthey project. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-44 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contracts with Drayton Archeological Research LLC (Garth Baldwin) for the Stan Honrud CREP project in the amount of \$740 and with Rosario Archeological (Mark Hovezak) for the Brian Hrutfiord CREP project in the amount of \$1,500.00. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-45 Joyce Jimerson moved to approve and sign the Conservation Commission Master Grant application and Authorized Signatures form. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-46 Joyce Jimerson moved that the District hire an intern for the summer work study program at \$13.50 per hour following the completion of all necessary paperwork. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-47 Joyce Jimerson moved to accept the bid of \$11,032 from 3-D Corporation to purchase a network server. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-48 Sabina Gouran moved that the District decline the landowners request for additional maintenance for the John Vander Veen CREP project. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Joyce Jimerson moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:47 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Dated: August 16, 2007

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____