

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2009**

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 March 11, 2009, 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 checked="" 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		Larry Davis

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Dick Yoder as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 6:40 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Joe Heller moved that the minutes of the February 18, 2009 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 February 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:

Feb 2009 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16664</u>	through	<u>16668</u>	and totaling	<u>10,060.81</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16669</u>	through	<u>16683</u>	and totaling	<u>28,252.56</u>
March 2009					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16684</u>	through	<u>16699</u>	and totaling	<u>10,945.26</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16700</u>	through	<u>16714</u>	and totaling	<u>27,989.75</u>

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

VI. Action Items.

A. 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 the standard-language contract.

There were three projects submitted for Board approval.

Sabina Gouran moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Enrique & Marny Barrau (08-04-CR:08-28), Rich Van Winkle (08-04-CR:08-29), and Tom & Brenda Ellis (08-40-CR:08-24). Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Inter-local Agreement –

An Inter-local Agreement with the Bertrand Watershed Improvement District (WID) to share personnel was submitted for approval. George explained that the WID would like assistance to develop a N Lynden WID drainage plan through our Drainage Improvement District grant.

Ed Stone moved to approve and sign the inter-local agreement with Bertand WID. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Copier Purchase –

The Board reviewed the copier bids that Dawn obtained. There was discussion as to whether to lease or purchase. It was decided to purchase the Ricoh MP C5000 from Bellingham Business Machines. There were some questions regarding the copier cost and the supply/maintenance contract. Are they the most cost effective? Dawn informed the Board that 10 years ago the current copier cost the District \$13,000 without color and no network printing, which is more than the quotes for the new machine. Dawn will review the state contracting and research the cost per copy with the supply/maintenance contract and costs for supplies and maintenance without a contract to ensure that the District makes the most cost effective purchase.

Sabina Gouran moved to approve purchasing the Ricoh MP C5000 from Bellingham Business Machines. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Alex Hall, NRCS.

EQIP–

Alex is coordinating some necessary hedgerow plantings on current EQIP contracts with the District's native plant sale. This will assist in getting the planting components completed.

Staff is sending out the Cultural Resource Assessment requests for projects. Bill and Chris are starting contracts.

NRCS Floodplain Easement –

Alex shared some information on a component of the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP). Through the EWP, NRCS can purchase easements on any floodplain that has been impaired within the last 12 months or that has a history of repeated flooding. Through the program the landowner voluntarily offers to sell a permanent conservation easement that provides NRCS with full authority to restore and enhance the floodplain's functions and values. The landowner may request authorization from NRCS to engage in limited activities. Allowable uses are restricted

and should not be planned for continued use of this land for routine haying or grazing. The current rate is \$2,500 per acre. The deadline for applications is March 27, 2009. Kathy Kilcoyne is processing the applications.

TSP –

A TSP task order for Chris and Bill through June 2008 has been signed off by NRCS and sent to the WA Conservation Commission for signature.

EWP –

NRCS representatives are meeting with Lummi Nation representatives regarding a potential EWP project in Marrietta.

B. Supervisor Reports.

Election Results –

Ed Stone received the most votes at the supervisor election. The next step is for the WA Conservation Commission to review the election, verify its compliance with adopted procedures and certify the results.

Joe Heller –

Joe attended the NW regional districts meeting in Skagit.

Joe also attended the hedgerow tour that Frank gave the WDFW, DOE and Skagit Drainage Commissioners. Joe was impressed with Frank's presentation and his ease of interaction with the Skagit Drainage Commissioners. Hedgerows are controversial issue in Skagit County. They appeared open to the hedgerow idea during the tour.

C. George Boggs.

Salmon Summit –

Frank Corey will give a presentation at the Salmon Summit regarding the flood gate that was installed on Schneider Creek.

DID Manual –

The Drainage Manual is complete and will be sent to the Department of Ecology for approval. Frank will do plans in conjunction with the manual for a couple of Drainage Districts and the Bertrand WID North Lynden area.

Western Dairy Air Quality Seminar –

Nichole is giving a presentation at the Western Dairy Air Quality Seminar.

Grants –

We are continuing to write grant applications. George reviewed a CARE grant application proposal that Nichole is working on.

Ed Stone moved that the District apply for the CARE grant. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A Pioneers in Conservation Grant application is being drafted for work on Bellewood Acres. The project proposes large woody debris placement, a stream crossing and an educational component showing off-channel rearing and signage.

Joe Heller moved to approve the District application for a Pioneers in Conservation Grant for the Bellewood Acres project. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

EQIP –

Prior to the Local Work Group meeting on April 18th for ranking EQIP projects George suggested that the Board would like to make comments on the ranking tool questions. There was discussion regarding seeking input prior to the April meeting. Alex cautioned that any changes in the 2009 ranking may put contracting on hold. He recommended that the Board give input for the 2010 EQIP ranking.

WACD Legislative Days –

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) legislative days is scheduled for March 24, 2009. Meetings have been set up to meet with our legislative representatives. The current budget shows a 15-16% reduction of the WA Conservation Commission budget. A positive point to mention is that Conservation Districts are very efficient with the funds that we receive and get a lot of work accomplished.

Personnel Manual –

George sent the Board a memo regarding points of review and discussion in the District's Employee Manual. He has shared the information with staff. The goal is to review the comments at the May 13th Board meeting.

Annual Plan of Work –

George shared a draft annual plan of work. The main topics are consistent with last year's annual plan of work. The Board will review and make comments for the April meeting. It is proposed that changes may need to be made based on our funding in June.

CREP –

The CREP letter requesting a review of cost-share rates was received by the WA Conservation Commission and Farm Service Agency (FSA). The Commission will look at the rates and work with FSA to see if they are good or need to be adjusted.

CAO letters –

There was an influx violation letters sent to people that were given the option to adhere to standard buffers or develop a farm plan. Beth and Chuck are busy working with landowners.

Water Quality –

There was discussion regarding the poor water quality north of Lynden. There is the potential need to join the City of Lynden's water system or put in a treatment plant. There was further discussion regarding the nitrates in the water. Although dairies have farm plans to address their nutrient management, berry and chicken operations do not.

There was discussion regarding septic tank inspections that the County is doing. George reported that the County has done 2400 inspections in which 5% failed and 25% were close of failing. The Board discussed drainage and septic systems. George suggested that he could ask the County to have a representative give a presentation to the Board regarding the septic tank inspection program at the May Board meeting.

Larry Davis –

Larry informed the Board that he applied for the appointed supervisor position and desired to meet them. He gave a brief background for himself.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

09-26 Joe Heller moved that the minutes of the February 18, 2009 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

09-27 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.

09-28

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09-30 Ed Stone moved to approve and sign the inter-local agreement with Bertand WID. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

09-31 Sabina Gouran moved to approve purchasing the Ricoh MP C5000 from Bellingham Business Machines. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

09-32 Ed Stone moved that the District apply for the CARE grant. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

09-33 Joe Heller moved to approve the District application for a Pioneers in Conservation Grant for the Bellewood Acres project. 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 8:25 p.m. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Dated: April 28, 2009

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____