

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
May 13, 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 May 13, 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 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
	Chris Clark, Technician		Chuck Timblin, Technician
	Andrew Phay, Technician		Darryl Vander Haak
	Bryan Van Loo, Andgar		

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.

Jerry Van Dellen moved that the minutes of the April 8, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Correspondence

Tom Slocum – District Area Engineer – A copy of the Maberry project.

Copy of Economics of Riparian Restoration on the Stilliguamish.

Dept of Health – Draft copy of the Sanitary Survey for Drayton Harbor.

Invitation to Drayton Harbor Shellfish Day – Saturday, June 19, 2004.

APHIS – Avian Flu Testing postcard.

VI. Treasurer's Report.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented a Financial Report containing Income and Expenses, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Analysis effective May 13, 2004 a copy of which is attached hereto.

Rod Visser moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jerry Van Dellen 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:

April 2004 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12098</u>	through	<u>12118</u>	and totaling	<u>27,460.20</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>12119</u>	through	<u>12132</u>	and totaling	<u>18,442.11</u>
May 2004					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12133</u>	through	<u>12151</u>	and totaling	<u>79,156.20</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>12152</u>	through	<u>12165</u>	and totaling	<u>18,494.48</u>

moved by Rod Visser. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Reports Committees.

A. Supervisor Activities.

Bob Barker –

Bob attended the WACD Plant Materials Center (PMC) Strategic Planning meeting. The PMC reported that they are having a budget crisis. The PMC did not make any profit this year. No financial paperwork was shared by the PMC at this meeting. George gave a history of the PMC and its relationship to the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD). Since it was a “public entity” when run by NRCS and then sold to a “public entity,” the facility needs to be run for a public purpose.

There was discussion regarding the mortality of Douglas Fir and Western Red Cedar trees grown by the PMC this year. Bob explained how weather issues this Fall would cause the failures shown in the trees.

George discussed the implications of selling dead trees to contractors and the CREP program. The trees themselves can be “made good.” But what about absorbing the costs of planting trees that died? The project could conceivably not be up to specifications, so would not get signed-off for payment. New trees would not become available until next year. Contractors could be out funds for a year before payment can be made. This issue will be discussed at upcoming the WACD Officers and Directors and Conservation Commission meetings.

It was suggested that the PMC should write to their customers acknowledging there is a mortality issue with the fir and cedar. They should explain why this problem occurred and what they intend to do about it.

B. George Boggs.

Miscellaneous – George was invited to give a TMDL presentation at a conference in Maryland in September.

CREP – George has spent a lot of time on the CREP program at the state level. He is Chairman of the WACD CREP committee. The committee approved per acre costs and practice hold downs rates for maintenance costs. The committee will recommend that the Conservation Commission adopt the maintenance policy.

Livestock – George has not spent as much time on the WACD Livestock Committee this month. Chris Clark is on the Pond Liner Committee. Our office has seen a draft of the general permit. The proposed draft would have ground water and soil sampling requirements that address state law not the federal law. The Conservation District would like to recommend to the Livestock Committee and agency officials that they not place undue extra restrictions on Washington State producers that producers in other states do not have to adhere to. This could impact the Ag industry in our state. We encourage the Livestock Committee to look to the national

standards. If these standards “get the job done” then they should be the where the measuring bar is set.

The Conservation Commission asked and received from the state legislature \$250,000 this past legislative session for outreach to set up an AFO/CAFO program. The Livestock Committee wants to give \$50,000 to WSU Extension for outreach. Although Districts welcome a partnership with WSU Extension, we should be careful about the legislative intent of the money given us. It is important to be upfront with the Legislature, not changing what is done with the funds after we receive them. It was suggested that George may check with Kelli Linville to see if such a course of action would be contrary to what she thought she was paying for.

Draft Budget – The draft 2004-2005 Budget was passed out. The budget assumes full medical coverage for all employees as well as a projected 2% Cost of Living Adjustment and projected step increases to eligible employees. A draft expense sheet showing two options for employee medical costs showed possible cost adjustments that would influence the 2004-2005 Budget.

C. John Gillies.

Local (Food & Agriculture Committee) FAC –

Larry Reeves, FSA; George Boggs, WCD; and John Gillies, NRCS make up the local FAC. They met to discuss our office’s response to the Avian Flu issue. Robert Dyk, formerly of WSU Extension, stopped by the office to inform us he was up with USDA’s Washington State Avian Influenza Surveillance Team. There has been no formal word from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) people regarding this issue. This is disappointing since our office is the number in the phone book that people call when they have questions. After a week we got the temporary office number for the Surveillance Team and are giving it out.

NRCS Monthly Water Report –

A drought is predicted for this year.

EQIP –

Staff has spent a lot of time on the EQIP funding this year. Five EQIP contracts from Whatcom County that will get funded. The contracts have to be approved at the Area Level (Sacramento, CA) before they can be offered and signed. Whatcom County received the majority of the funds allocated for our local (NW) team. There may be a program review on how EQIP works and doesn’t work.

Buffers –

John mentioned that he spoke with Bob Van Weerdhuizen. Bob was upset about the buffers suggested by Dorie Belisle on a strip of Tenmile Creek. John explained the value of a vegetative buffer on ditches.

VIII. Special Items.

A. Manure Digester.

Chris Clark reminded the Board that the Conservation District had applied for a State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan with the Department of Ecology (WDOE) for manure digester technology. The due date to sign a contract with the WDOE is August 15, 2004.

Darryl Vander Haak is a Dairy producer who is interested in receiving a SRF loan to build a manure digester. Mr. Vander Haak has secured other funds for the project as well. Mr. Vander Haak and Bryan Van Loo, Andgar Corporation gave the board a brief presentation on their proposed manure digester project. The Board discussed the project and the action that they need to take at this point. The Board was still pondering if they wish to accept the SRF Loan contract with the WDOE.

B. Staff Presentations.

Chuck Timblin – Chuck gave his background and education. He also gave a brief work history. He discussed his early work with the District and dairy farmers through the WDOE compliance program up until the present time, since the Board is aware of his current duties as a Dairy planner. The Board asked Chuck his opinion on the WACD PMC situation and the potential outcome and how this will affect the District’s plant sale.

Andrew Phay – Andrew gave his background and education. He is the District’s GIS technician. Andrew showed the Board some examples of the maps he generates for the District and other agencies. Andrew is also the District IT person. He makes sure the computer network is working properly. Andrew designed and updates websites for the District and WACD. He also created and maintains the CREP database (now statewide) and the Cooperator database. He showed the board some of the information found in these databases.

C. Long Range Plan.

The draft Long Range Plan was passed out. The information was passed out as an introduction and will be discussed further at a later Board meeting.

The Board requested that the SRF Loan contract be put on next month’s meeting agenda. The Board supports the manure digester, but has serious reservations about the project. They would like to see a concrete business plan prior to signing a contract with the producer for a loan.

IX. Record of Board Actions.

04-31 Jerry Van Dellen moved that the minutes of the April 8, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-32 Rod Visser moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

04-33

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moved by Rod Visser. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Cornie Timmermans moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Dated: July 2, 2004

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant