

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2010**

I. Time and Place of Meeting.

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) was held at the Ag Service Center, 6975 Hannegan Rd, Lynden, Washington on May 5, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Dick Yoder	Ed Stone
Joe Heller	Larry Davis
Terry Lenssen	

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, District Manager	Alex Hall, NRCS staff
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant	Jeff Rainey, Coldstream Farms

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Dick Yoder, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

IV. Jeff Rainey, Coldstream Farms.

Jeff came to express his thanks to the Board and NRCS for the EQIP cost-share that he received on components of a bedding recovery unit. Jeff enjoys working with Chris Clark and found Chris very helpful during the installation of the project. They have a 750-800 cow dairy. Jeff explained that the bedding recovery unit helped eliminate their solids applications. It has also helped with costs associated with bedding material. They don't use big bale straw anymore. The cows are cleaner and healthier. They have had a very positive experience with the bedding recovery unit. It was suggested that the project would make a good feature for our annual Report of Accomplishments for the year.

Jeff also shared an article regarding Greenhouse Gases with the Board.

British Columbia Ag Forum is scheduled for June 16, 2010 in Abbotsford from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A flyer was passed around. 80% of British Columbia's agricultural production is in the Fraser Valley.

George gave a synopsis of Nichole Embertson's presentation regarding the EPA Application Risk Management (ARM) system grant given to the Department of Ecology. Ecology prefers to have a definitive date for beginning and ending manure applications. The ARM system is looking at environmental factors that may change the "date" from year to year but will offer more protection to surface and groundwater because of enhanced crop uptake of nutrients.

Alex expressed his appreciation in having Chris Clark working on EQIP under the Technical Service Provider (TSP) contracts. There is good feedback and positive benefits to both the District and NRCS.

River Corridor Management –

George expressed the importance of farmers being involved in county issues that impact farmers. He referenced the Nooksack River Corridor Management issue.

V. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the April 13, 2010 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Financial Report.

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

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

Larry Davis 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:

April 2010 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17665</u>	through	<u>17687</u>	and totaling	<u>\$ 17,514.75</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>17688</u>	through	<u>17701</u>	and totaling	<u>27,821.31</u>
May 2010					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17702</u>	through	<u>17708</u>	and totaling	<u>11,489.82</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>17709</u>	through	<u>17723</u>	and totaling	<u>28,116.51</u>

Moved by Larry Davis. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

Moderate Farm Plan Approval –

There was one moderate farm plan written and submitted for Board approval. There was discussion regarding the plan and land use for BelleWood Acres (John and Dorie Belisle).

Ed Stone moved to approve the moderate farm plan for BelleWood Acres. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP PIP Loan (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program – Practice Incentive Payment) –

There was one new CREP PIP Loan.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve the CREP PIP Loan for Jim and Diane Shelton for \$4,915.00. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was one amendment to an existing CREP PIP Loan. Johanna Asarian-Anderson is completing another practice. The paperwork will be amended to include the two completed practices.

Joe Heller moved to approve Amendment #1 to Johanna Asarian-Anderson's CREP PIP Loan in the amount of \$11,984.00. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Puget Sound Partnership Block Grant –

The Puget Sound Partnership Block Grant was received and signed. This grant proposed sub-contracting with Horses for Clean Water to do some educational components. Alayne Blicke will write a couple of horse articles for the Horse Source Magazine, present at a workshop, and edit a draft 4-H manual for use in Whatcom County.

Joe Heller moved to sub-contract with Alayne Blicke, Horses for Clean Water, through the Puget Sound Partnership Block grant to do educational components in the amount of \$1,825.00. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Other Business.

A. Alex Hall, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS).

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) –

There is a lot of interest in the organic EQIP. The applications were ranked state-wide. One was funded in Whatcom County. It is for a high tunnel system. Alex gave some criteria for qualifying for the organic EQIP. The project has to be 5% of one acre. The life span of the practice is 4 years. Yields and other information will be shared with NRCS to see if the practice is worth continuing. If there are more funds available, another project may get funded.

Department of Ecology Meeting –

Alex attended the ARM system presentation that Nichole gave to the Department of Ecology. He was impressed with her presentation. It appears to be a good system to help farmers implement their farm plans. NRCS locally support the project.

Larry also attended the Ecology meeting. He expressed his thoughts on the questions presented by Ecology. Larry was a little disappointed that the EPA representatives did not say anything about the grant in response to questions posed to Nichole.

Joe attended Nichole's presentation. She did an excellent job. He mentioned all of the agencies in attendance. It was a 2 hour presentation in a less than amiable environment. Chris Clark also provided good input to the discussion.

Joe wondered how this would impact the EPA grant. George added that Whatcom Conservation District received two EPA grants of \$1.5 million out of \$10 million in the area.

B. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis –

The Local Work Group meeting was successful. They kept the same funding pools from 2010. There was a change to the definition of small farm to less than or equal to 100 animal units rather than acres. Cost-share thresholds are the same as 2010. The unspent funds from the Forestry pool will reallocate to the multiple small farm and forestry pool then reallocate to the other funds.

Steve Nissley will try filling out the Resource Matrix and send to the rest of the region for comment.

Larry proposed adoption of by-laws for the local work group as operating procedures. They were adopted. He was re-elected to be Chair this next year. Erin Borden of Island County was elected Vice Chair.

Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) Employee of the Year –

Dawn asked Larry to serve on the Employee of the Year Committee. Larry gave a review of the process and nominations. Nominations that are better written tend to score higher.

4th Grade Tour with Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) –

Larry attended the NSEA stream presentation with his wife's 4th grade class from Berniece Vossbeck Elementary School in Lynden.

Joe Heller –

Wayne Chaudiere and Joe will be attending the Society of American Foresters Conference in La Conner.

Terry Lenssen –

Terry received a call about the Board declining to approve a plan that included a lagoon did not meet NRCS specification. There was a question regarding targeting funds for lagoon maintenance or decommissioning.

Dick Yoder –

Ag Advisory Committee –

At the last meeting the committee discussed what activities or businesses should be allowed in land zoned agriculture. Dick shared what some of them were. He will provide a list for Board review.

Volunteer approach to the CPAL program was discussed.

C. George Boggs, Executive Director.

River Corridor Management –

The tour was successful. There will be a meeting on May 13 to discuss the next steps. The scientists who did the original study will be at the meeting.

Nichole shared climate change information in her presentation. These show that rains and flooding are shifting a little bit. Frank Corey will give a presentation on Climate Change at June's Board meeting.

Asbestos –

George gave an update on the asbestos issues in Sumas with Swift Creek.

Plant Sale –

George gave a breakdown in the results of a survey of what people were doing with the plants purchased at the plant sale. It shows a good use of funds. The District received positive comments from customers.

WACD Budget –

George gave a background to the Board of the latest budget development request from WACD for 2011-13. He spoke with Ron Shultz, WA Conservation Commission, regarding the Puget Sound Partnership action plan.

CPAL program –

A report for the CPAL and small farm program was distributed to the Board. We are imputing widgets into the WA Conservation Commission database to capture our small farm and commercial farms.

Energy Audit –

George shared the Energy Audit completed by Sustainable Connections. He highlighted some things that we could do to save energy. George explained that with Puget Sound Energy's upgrade program the light fixtures could be replaced for minimal funds.

Joe Heller move to authorize George to implement the Puget Sound Energy refund eligible items outlined in the energy audit to replace/upgrade the light fixtures, etc. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Leave –

George informed the Board that he was taking three weeks off to do a kitchen remodel.

Upcoming Events –

Lummi First Salmon Ceremony is May 20th.

Department of Ecology (DOE) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) –

Joe asked if there was any movement on the MOA. George said that it is progressing forward. It should be a short concise MOA.

Federal Funds Disclosure –

There is a question of whether the EPA grant would be subject to public disclosure. They can give a range of numbers. Research will not disclose the identity of any sampling. The Conservation District will not turn in anyone if there are problems determined.

Verizon –

George needs to follow up on the letter to the insurance company regarding Verizon's damage to the parking lot.

Ed Stone –

Ed reported that his beaver deceiver has failed. The beavers have plugged it up. He will meet with Frank to try and improve the situation.

IX. Record of Board Actions.

10-39 Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the April 13, 2010 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10-40 Larry Davis 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.

10-41

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

April 2010 - balance

Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17665</u>	through	<u>17687</u>	and totaling	<u>\$ 17,514.75</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>17688</u>	through	<u>17701</u>	and totaling	<u>27,821.31</u>

May 2010

Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17702</u>	through	<u>17708</u>	and totaling	<u>11,489.82</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>17709</u>	through	<u>17723</u>	and totaling	<u>28,116.51</u>

Moved by Larry Davis. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10-42 Ed Stone moved to approve the moderate farm plan for BelleWood Acres. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10-43 Terry Lenssen moved to approve the CREP PIP Loan for Jim and Diane Shelton for \$4,915.00. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10-44 Joe Heller moved to approve Amendment #1 to Johanna Asarian-Anderson's CREP PIP Loan in the amount of \$11,984.00. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10-45 Joe Heller moved to sub-contract with Alayne Blickle, Horses for Clean Water, through the Puget Sound Partnership Block grant to do educational components in the amount of \$1,825.00. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10-46 Joe Heller move to authorize George to implement the Puget Sound Energy refund eligible items outlined in the energy audit to replace/upgrade the light fixtures, etc. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Joe Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Dated: June 22, 2010

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____