

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
November 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 November 13, at 7:00 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 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"/>	Alex Hall, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Robert Barker, Associate Supervisor
	John Larson, WACD		

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 7:00 p.m.

**IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

**Joyce Jimerson moved that the minutes of the October 9, 2007 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 October 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. Joyce Jimerson 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:

Oct 2007 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15422</u>	through	<u>15454</u>	and totaling	<u>26,551.30</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>15455</u>	through	<u>15468</u>	and totaling	<u>22,415.48</u>
November 2007					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15469</u>	through	<u>15494</u>	and totaling	<u>35,800.97</u>

Payroll check numbers: 15495 through 15509 and totaling 22,011.72  
**moved by Dick Yoder. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **VI. Action Items.**

### **A. Approval of Conservation Plans.**

#### Dairy Nutrient Management Plan –

One dairy nutrient management plan was submitted for approval.

**Dick Yoder moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Shawn & Clarissa Langley (Fresh Breeze Organic Dairy). Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

#### Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Plan –

Alex Hall requested approval of the Conservation plan that he prepared for Leonard Ebe. A plan must be developed using NRCS guidelines for Best Management Practices in line in order to be eligible for the PDR program. The Ebe property has been approved for funding by Whatcom County.

**Dick Yoder moved to approve the NRCS Conservation Plan for the Leonard Ebe property managed by Greg Ebe. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### **B. Approval of Contracts.**

#### Livestock Cost-share Application –

There is one producer that is requesting livestock cost-share. The Board approved the application subject to availability of funds, not to exceed \$25,000 per contract.

**Dick Yoder moved to approve a Livestock Cost-share contract with Scott Plagerman at 75% of actual costs not to exceed \$25,000 subject to availability of funds. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **VII. Other Business.**

### **A. George Boggs.**

#### Verizon –

There has been no further progress with Verizon to report on the parking lot issue. George is doing some research regarding trespass prior to engaging in further correspondence with Verizon.

The parking lot was patched to prevent further damage.

#### Whatcom County contract –

At the last Board meeting George reported to the Board the difficulty that the District was having in contracting with Whatcom County for CAO small farm planning. As directed, George wrote a letter to Whatcom County suggesting suspension of negotiations until such time as the County decided it was an effort to which it could contribute staff time. A few days later he met with County staff. The contract was back on track. We have finally completed the draft interlocal agreement and are awaiting approval from Whatcom County to sign. There were no substantive changes. If all goes well it will be signed and become effective December 4, 2007.

#### NW Area Meeting:

NRCS – Gus Hughbanks, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), reported that there are a lot of TSP Funds available. George, Alex and Bill worked up a work for Bill Bensen to work through June 30, 2008.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) – Gus reported that there are a lot of Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) funds available that the State has not been able to utilize.

Hope to have a wetland project in Whatcom County to do a wetland mitigation bank. Whatcom County would improve and maintain the wetland bank. There was Board discussion regarding how a wetland mitigation bank would work, where to put it, and options of using the funds to obtain other mitigation banks. Whatcom County is not profit oriented, so should pick the appropriate places for wetland banks.

WA Conservation Commission – Mark Clark spoke about Supervisor Elections. New policy for holding elections will be distributed to Conservation Districts.

The Conservation Commission hired Ron Schulz. Ron will work on Puget Sound issues. There was discussion regarding the Conservation District's role in Puget Sound issues.

George reviewed the WACD Annual meeting resolutions giving some topic highlights. John Larson encouraged the Board to attend the annual meeting.

Training –

George was asked to facilitate the CNMP training. Nearly 100 people attended. Chris Clark was asked to give a presentation. Joy, Alex and Chris attended. They are seeking uniformity of planning throughout the state.

NW Ag Business Center –

David Bauermeister would like to create a RC&D in Skagit, Island, San Juan and Whatcom counties. The focus would be on farming business. He would like a letter of support from the Whatcom Conservation District on the creation of a RC&D, so long as the NW Ag Business Center is designated as the RC&D board. There was discussion regarding RC&D's. It is unclear if the NW Ag Business Center would meet the requirements for a RC&D board. Before the Board takes a stand on the issue they would like George to look into the matter further.

CREP 2 –

The current CREP contract between the state and federal government will end December 31, 2007. There is no funds in the new farm bill at this point, so there participants can not enroll in the program starting January 1.

George reviewed the new components for CREP 2. They are filter strips, hedgerows and wetlands. There are concerns with each component and how they will be managed. According to the regulations, participants will need to mow a filter strip, but can't use it for feed. Hedgerows are limited by establishment cost limits of \$3,000 and 15 foot maximum. Wetland enhancement won't apply to marginal pasture lands. With cropland being the only eligible land, the practice becomes much less attractive.

Salmon Summit –

George will organize and facilitate a track, "Ditch the Car and Live in Town, to Save Farms and Salmon" at the Salmon Summit. John Gillies will present on the proposed North Lynden Watershed Improvement District (WID). There will also be a presentation regarding the need to make farmers profitable to stay in the community.

Lynden High School Livestock Advisory Committee –

George was asked to Chair the Livestock Advisory Committee for Lynden High School.

**B. Alex Hall, NRCS.**

EQIP –

The EQIP sign-up ended November 2, 2007. There were 18 applications from Whatcom County. Alex gave a breakdown of operation type of the applications, 1 forest, 1 poultry, 1 small farm and

the rest dairy. The new farm bill is coming. Staff is trying to get the EQIP contracts signed before the new farm bill. Otherwise they will have to be redone.

**C. John Larson, Washington Association of Conservation Districts.**

The key to success of the association is WACD knowing what conservation districts need.

John discussed the process of state funding request for the WA Conservation Commission. Jim Jesernig has been key in getting the Commission funds.

John was pleased to announce that 43 of the 47 District have paid their WACD dues in full.

John discussed the WACD Annual meeting. There are a lot of good presentations and speakers scheduled. He urged that Board members attend the Puget Sound break out session.

Jerry agreed to check his schedule to see if he could attend the convention.

**D. SR 9 Project.**

George reported on progress with the State Route project. Bill Bonsen and Chris Clark have done a lot of work on this project. We hope to get it all done and within budget before the weather gets too bad. The District has a letter of preauthorization to work on the project. George asked for approval of the District to sign landowner agreements and the contract when it is completed.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize signature of the landowner and Department of Transportation contracts for the State Route 9 project. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

There is more work to be done, which should take place in a Phase 2. George reported that drain tiles are broken and that the Puget Sound Energy power station is surrounded by water.

**VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**07-98 Joyce Jimerson moved that the minutes of the October 9, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**07-99 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Financial Report. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.**

**07-100**

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**07-101 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Shawn & Clarissa Langley (Fresh Breeze Organic Dairy). Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**07-102 Dick Yoder moved to approve the NRCS Conservation Plan for the Leonard Ebe property managed by Greg Ebe. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**07-103 Dick Yoder moved to approve a Livestock Cost-share contract with Scott Plagerman at 75% of actual costs not to exceed \$25,000 subject to availability of funds. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**07-104 Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize signature of the landowner and Department of Transportation contracts for the State Route 9 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 8:35 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Dated: December 17, 2007

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant