

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2006**

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 15, 2006, at 12:00 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabina Gouran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Jimerson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Stone		

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
	Jeff Swotek, NRCS		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:17 p.m. Jeff Swotek, NRCS, was introduced to the Board.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the October 11, 2006 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 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. 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:

October 2006 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14473</u>	through	<u>14526</u>	and totaling	<u>65,764.97</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14527</u>	through	<u>14539</u>	and totaling	<u>18,353.10</u>

November 2006				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14540</u>	through	<u>14550</u>	and totaling <u>7,546.17</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14551</u>	through	<u>14563</u>	and totaling <u>18,334.94</u>

moved by Dick Yoder. Sabina Gouran 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 four standard-language contracts.

Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Deanna Dompe (06-04-CR01:06-24), Daisy Manthey (06-04-CR01:05-46), Karl & Louise Seck (06-04-CR01:06-16), and Guermeet Singh (06-04-CR01:06-33). Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Department of Ecology (WDOE) Water Meter Contracts –

There are four applicants for the WDOE water meter cost-share program. They have been sent to Ecology for approval. We are anticipating notification that they have been approved and will need contracts signed to begin work. George reviewed the applicants, the cost share requested and the eligible cost-share percentages for each. It was noticed that all four applicants are domestic use.

Joyce Jimerson moved to approve and authorize Board signature for the water meter cost-share contracts for Arthur Pottle (\$2,466.55 – 90% cost-share), Willey’s Lake Water Association (\$2,546.31 – 90% cost-share), Northwest Mobile Home Park (\$1,885.62 – 100% cost-share) and Lake Terrill Water Association (\$1,685.62 – 100% cost-share) not to exceed the funding as outlined following Ecology approval. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Dairy Nutrient Farm Plan.

Chuck Timblin wrote a farm plan for a new dairy operation, Eric Sundstrom (Silver Springs Creamery Dairy). John Gillies and Jeff Swotek reviewed the farm plan prior to submittal to the Board for approval. The plan contains all the most current NRCS planning requirements.

Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Eric Sundstrom (Silver Springs Creamery Dairy). Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. NACD Dues.

NACD Dues –

NACD annual dues were discussed. NACD suggests the dues structure based on your District budget. Gold tier is over \$775 and the silver tier is up to \$775. The District paid \$1,000 for dues in 2005 and 2006 based on our budget.

Dick Yoder moved to pay \$1,000 for 2007 NACD Annual Dues. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. WACD Supervisor Election.

The District received notice from the WA Conservation Commission that Dick Yoder’s elected position is expiring in March 2007. We only have one supervisor’s term ending this year. Under

the election guidelines set out in RCW 89.08, an election resolution setting the date of the election needs to be completed by December 31. The 2007 District Election is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2007 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at the District office, 6975 Hannegan Road, Lynden, WA.

Dick Yoder moved approve Resolution 06-1 (Notice of Election Date) to schedule the District Supervisor Election on March 13, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the District office. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. CREP Maintenance Policy.

Staff developed a recommendation to increase the CREP maintenance cap from \$1,500 per acre to \$2,000 per acre for up to 5 years. George reviewed maintenance requirements and weeds. He explained the interpretation of maintenance for projects by staff and the levels of noxious weeds. Sabina explained the original cap, weed control and the survival of the trees. There was discussion regarding the maintenance cap increase and the weed control options. Staff will meet with the Board, NRCS and FSA to determine the level of maintenance necessary and to reach a consensus on maintenance of projects.

Sabina Gouran moved to recommend to the WACD CREP Committee that it review current Commission policy to consider increasing the CREP maintenance cap to \$2,000 per acre for West-side conservation districts. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

The request for a cap increase will go to the CREP Committee. Staff will meet with FSA, NRCS and the Noxious Weed Control Board to set priorities for weed control. They hope to have some guidance for the Board in December. There was further discussion regarding maintenance.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Activities.

Joyce Jimerson –

Joyce attended the nitrogen deposition meeting. Elizabeth Waddell, US National Parks Service, and a Canadian representative gave presentations. Elizabeth Waddell's presentation was on how nitrogen impacts the environment in the mountains. Canada is on the cutting edge on this issue. They are currently establishing a baseline on nitrogen. George showed the Board a presentation on air quality that he will give at the WACD Convention based on Elizabeth Waddell's power point. There was discussion regarding technology in sequestering nitrogen and the issue of timing in nitrogen application to crops.

B. George Boggs.

WACD Convention –

Bob Barker asked George to inform the Board about how the Conservation District fits with the state association (Washington Association of Conservation Districts), WA Conservation Commission and state legislature. George gave a power point presentation showing the roles and overlapping goals of the agencies involved. He suggested that the WACD Convention would be a good time to see the process in action.

Funding –

Staff completed two applications for Centennial Clean Water Fund grants to the Department of Ecology. George wrote a proposal for an Ag Pilots grant regarding carbon sequestering. Wayne Chaudiere completed an application for a Community Salmon Fund Grant for a restoration project. Carl Weimer, Whatcom County Council, has put in a request for the District to receive \$50,000 for low and moderate impact farm planning in the County's 2007 Budget.

Stone & Thomas Property –

George met with Mr. & Mrs. Thomas and their lawyer regarding their drainage problems. The Thomas' were not able to pasture their cows this year due to the lack of drainage. Pursuant to previous Board action, George told them that we would see if we can figure out what the drainage problem is and its possible solutions. The District would conduct a survey of the 10 mile beginning about Kelly Road to identify obstructions. One possible solution could be the installation of beaver deceivers where there are active beaver dams.

Training –

The opportunity for staff receiving First Aid/CPR training is available. Staff has done some checking. The Washington Governmental Entity Pool (WGEP) recommended Shawn Ritchey. He will do both First Aid and CPR training for \$400 – up to 10 people (\$40 per person for 10). There is a price break for more than 10 people. The Board authorized setting up a First Aid/CPR class for staff and Board members.

Employee Compensation –

The employee compensation information has been gathered. The committee needs to set a time to discuss the information. Dawn pointed out that there had been some under reporting of compensation for some Districts. She was comparing their entry level pay scales with our staff. The changes were made and the information was passed on to the committee members.

C. John Gillies.

EQIP –

John reported that the EQIP sign up deadline is rapidly approaching (November 17). Our office has three applicants to date. However they were not overly advertising the EQIP sign up this year. There are still over 100 active contracts. Milk prices may have affected the sign ups as well. John is correcting error in the current EQIP contracts before he retires.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) –

John discussed a potential PDR applicant. It would be a good site that would take 4 development rights out in the rural zone. The Whatcom County Council is putting funds into the budget for Ag Protection. They will use the funds to explore other options to maintain agricultural land, including a Transfer of Development Rights program. The funds would hire a full-time land use person for the County and explore the options for agricultural land protection. There was discussion regarding development rights.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

06-68 Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the October 11, 2006 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

06-69 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.

06-70

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

- 06-71 Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Deanna Dompe (06-04-CR01:06-24), Daisy Manthey (06-04-CR01:05-46), Karl & Louise Seck (06-04-CR01:06-16), and Guermeet Singh (06-04-CR01:06-33). Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 06-72 Joyce Jimerson moved to approve and authorize Board signature for the water meter cost-share contracts for Arthur Pottle (\$2,466.55 – 90% cost-share), Willey’s Lake Water Association (\$2,546.31 – 90% cost-share), Northwest Mobile Home Park (\$1,885.62 – 100% cost-share) and Lake Terrill Water Association (\$1,685.62 – 100% cost-share) not to exceed the funding as outlined following Ecology approval. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 06-73 Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Eric Sundstrom (Silver Springs Creamery Dairy). Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 06-74 Dick Yoder moved to pay \$1,000 for 2007 NACD Annual Dues. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 06-75 Dick Yoder moved approve Resolution 06-1 (Notice of Election Date) to schedule the District Supervisor Election on March 13, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the District office. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 06-76 Sabina Gouran moved to recommend to the WACD CREP Committee that it review current Commission policy to consider increasing the CREP maintenance cap to \$2,000 per acre for West-side conservation districts. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Dick Yoder moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 p.m. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Dated: December 29, 2006

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____