

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2008**

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 18, 2008, 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Alex Hall, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Robert Barker, Associate Supervisor

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Dick Yoder as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 6:38 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the October 8, 2008 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joe Heller 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.

Ed Stone 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:

Oct 2008 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16339</u>	through	<u>16364</u>	and totaling	<u>32,313.38</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16365</u>	through	<u>16377</u>	and totaling	<u>23,917.97</u>
November 2008					
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16378</u>	through	<u>16392</u>	and totaling	<u>23,663.63</u>

Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16393</u>	_____	and totaling	<u>214.00</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16394</u>	_____	and totaling	<u>1,762.10</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16395</u>	through <u>16435</u>	and totaling	<u>46,298.81</u>

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

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

CREP Cultural Resources Assessments –

There is one CREP applicant that needs to have cultural resource assessment done on their proposed project. The District sends out requests for bids to a list of certified archeologists. From those that respond the District selects the lowest bidder. The District enters into an agreement for the cultural resource assessment with the contractor. The bid was appropriate with prior experience. Staff recommended that the Board for approve the contract for the George Train CREP projects.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contracts with Drayton Archeological Research LLC (Garth Baldwin) for the George Train CREP project in the amount of \$1,464.00. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Livestock Cost-share Contract Assumption –

Scott Plagerman sold his farm to Roger Blok. There is an existing cost-share contract with Scott Plagerman to install/maintain a manure transfer system. Mr. Blok is willing to accept the responsibilities under the Plagerman agreement. Staff recommended that the Board approve the contract modification and assumption agreement.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve the state cost-share contract modification and assumption from Scott Plagerman to Roger Blok. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP Maintenance Cap Increase Approval Sheet –

The Board reviewed the CREP Maintenance Budget Increase Approval Sheet. Sonya spoke with Carol Smith, WA Conservation Commission, and Carol indicated that she is encouraging Districts to install beaver protection and will support budget cap increases for such activities. Staff recommended that the Board approve the identified Maintenance Budget Cap Increases.

Ed Stone moved to approve the Maintenance Budget Cap Increase Approval sheet recommending to the Conservation Commission new maintenance caps for the projects listed. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Supervisor Election.

Election Date –

George explained that Ed Stone and Sabina Gouran's positions would be, respectively; open for election/appointment in 2009. Staff recommended that the Board set a date for the election and polling hours.

Joe Heller moved to hold the Whatcom Conservation District Supervisor election at the District office on March 10, 2009 with the polls open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Election Officer –

The Commission now requires that the Board appoint an election officer. The Election Officer will organize, coordinate, facilitate election tasks and assures that all required documentation is completed and provided to the Conservation Commission. The Election Officer also serves as the primary point of contact with the Conservation Commission regarding the election. The

Election Officer could be a Supervisor, District employee or any responsible citizen or entity selected by the Board. Staff recommended that Dawn be appointed as the Election Officer for 2009.

Joe Heller moved to appoint Dawn Bekenyi as the Election Officer. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Report.

Ed Stone –

Ed informed the Board that he is reviewing and signing George's timesheets. He wanted the Board to know that there is some trust factor in this and to verify with them that this was acceptable. It was agreeable with all Board members to sign George's timesheets.

Dick Yoder –

Dick and Terry attended the NW Area meeting. The two resolutions brought from Whatcom Conservation District passed the Area Association and will go onto the state Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) convention.

Dick also serves on the Ag advisory technical committee. They met to review the Purchase of Development Rights applicants. There was discussion regarding using private funds to develop/purchase transfer of development rights. George explained how transfer of development rights works. Before June 2009 the County will negotiate with the cities regarding their development rights prior to annexation of land into the city. The city would require a development right. The concern is having an endless supply of development rights.

B. NRCS Report.

Alex was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a report with George.

EQIP –

George explained that NRCS is changing how practices are to be scheduled for implementation. Producers need to get their practices done within the year scheduled. Previously, contracts were modified without cause to accommodate producer desire to implement practices at an earlier/late date. From now on, NRCS will grant only one extension of the contract. There is the potential if a producer can not get the practices completed that the funds could be taken away or damages could be assessed. NRCS is trying to rewrite the schedules of current EQIP agreements to avoid this harsh outcome.

C. George Boggs.

WACD –

George reviewed how the resolution process works at WACD. He sought feedback from the Board on the resolutions prior to the convention to help direct those attending in their votes.

Drainage Improvement District (DID) Education Grant –

The Drainage Manual draft is ready for review. George sent copies to DID commissioners and agencies for comments. He asked the Board to review and provide comments as well.

Staff Award –

Chris Clark and Bill Bensen will receive the NRCS Individual Partnership award at the WACD Convention from NRCS for their EQIP work.

Joe Heller moved to give Bill Bensen and Chris Clark a monetary award in the amount of \$100. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nichole Embertson –

George reported that Nichole is engaging in self study: revamping how the dairy nutrient management plans look to make them easier to read and update. She will make a presentation at the WACD convention on air quality.

Budget –

The budget is hopeful for next biennium. Conservation Districts get things accomplished, which is easier to defend. Pete Kremen did not fund the small farm education contract for this next year. We need to get the County Council to put the funds back into the County budget.

Plant Sale –

George passed out the plant sale budget for the Board to review. Sonya is coordinating the plant sale this year. George voiced concerns about the potential expense of ordering plants that don't sell. Bob Barker brought out that the plant sale outreach is the only way the District connects with some people. Conservation Districts are the best kept secret. Dick mentioned that in his discussions with nurserymen the best year's they have are when budgets are tight. The Board was very supportive of having the plant sale.

Ed Stone moved to authorize George to hire an intern to assist with the plant sale. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Small Farm Tracking –

George reviewed the small farm program. He passed around a map and graph showing the work done. Whatcom County was shooting for 200 contacts and they have 177 to date. The Conservation District has completed 65 plans for Whatcom County, had 30 contacts with residents regarding farm practices and provided outreach to 50 workshop participants.

Meetings –

George participated on the panel of the NW leadership committee at Lummi. The Energy Resource/Peak Oil meeting survey has been sent out.

Miscellaneous –

The Snyder Creek floodgate has been installed. It suffered damage in the flood. However, the contractor was able to obtain the necessary permits with Frank's assistance and the repairs would be immediately affected.

The Department of Transportation contract and subcontracts with landowners have been signed. The Skillman and DeJong projects are completed. The Van Middendorp project will be done next year due to high water table.

There was discussion regarding manure application and the heavy rainfalls that we have received. George discussed the potential options of how to apply manure responsibly prior to T-sum 200.

The Board scheduled the next board meeting for December 16 at 6:30.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

08-91 Ed Stone 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.

08-92

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- 08-93 Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contracts with Drayton Archeological Research LLC (Garth Baldwin) for the George Train CREP project in the amount of \$1,464.00. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 08-94 Terry Lenssen moved to approve the state cost-share contract modification and assumption from Scott Plagerman to Roger Blok. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 08-95 Ed Stone moved to approve the Maintenance Budget Cap Increase Approval sheet recommending to the Conservation Commission new maintenance caps for the projects listed. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 08-96 Joe Heller moved to hold the Whatcom Conservation District Supervisor election at the District office on March 10, 2009 with the polls open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 08-97 Joe Heller moved to appoint Dawn Bekenyi as the Election Officer. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 08-98 Joe Heller moved to give Bill Bonsen and Chris Clark a monetary award in the amount of \$100. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 08-99 Ed Stone moved to authorize George to hire an intern to assist with the plant sale. 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 8:45 p.m. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Dated: December 17, 2008

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____