

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
October 9, 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 October 9, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder
<input checked="" 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		Brendan Woodward, Standard Carbon
	Sherman Polinder, Ronelee Farm		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Dick Yoder acting as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 7:04 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the September 11, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

The financial report was mailed to the Board with their draft minutes from the September 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. 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:

Sept 07 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15352</u>	through	<u>15370</u>	and totaling	<u>21,097.14</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>15371</u>	through	<u>15384</u>	and totaling	<u>21,914.64</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	15385			and totaling	117.00

October 2007					
Voucher (check) numbers	15386	through	15402	and totaling	28,183.10
Payroll check numbers:	15403	through	15416	and totaling	22,215.32
Voucher (check) numbers	15417	through	15421	and totaling	881.74

moved by Ed Stone. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

One dairy nutrient management plan was submitted for approval.

Ed Stone moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Brian Tjoelker (Forest Grove Farm). Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Contracts.

Livestock Cost-share Addendum Amendment #1 –

The District received a grant addendum amendment #1 for the Livestock Cost-share (08-4-LC) with 7 Ed Strachila, 8 John Van Berkum, 9 Cornie Vreugdenhil, 10 Robert Smit, and 11 Marvin Vreugdenhil for a total of \$89,800.00. The Board reviewed and approved the addendum as per Washington Conservation Commission guidance.

Ed Stone moved to approve the Livestock Cost-share addendum amendment #1 for 7 Ed Strachila, 8 John Van Berkum, 9 Cornie Vreugdenhil, 10 Robert Smit, and 11 Marvin Vreugdenhil for a total of \$89,800.00. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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 the standard-language contracts.

Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contract for Eric & Pamela Davis & Donald Danenger (06-04-CR01:07-31). Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) Loan Agreement –

The CREP Program Incentive Payment (PIP) Loan program allows advance payments from State CREP cost-share funds based on the anticipated PIP payment calculated by FSA (40% of eligible costs) available to participating landowners. The PIP advance payment is made at zero percent interest and will extend until the riparian buffer is certified, but no longer than 3 years. This program helps to ease the financial constraints of the landowner/contractor who, otherwise, would carry the cost of installing practices until the entire project is completed.

Sabina Gouran moved to approve and sign the CREP PIP Loan Agreement with the WA Conservation Commission. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) –

Brady Mayson's Campbell Creek project application was previously approved by the Board for a LIP grant. The chair was authorized to sign the agreement when it became clear that the permits would be forthcoming in time to complete the project within the time specified in the agreement. Also, that work would need to be started before the next Board meeting. So, the Board adopted a policy that so long as the process was competitive and that the amount of the bid was less than or equal to what was set in the project budget, then the chair could go ahead and sign the agreements. The Board would ratify his actions consistent with that policy.

Ed Stone moved to approve and sign the WDFW LIP contract for Mayson's Campbell Creek Project in the amount of \$5,000. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ed Stone moved to ratify the WDFW LIP Mayson's Campbell Creek Project heavy equipment contract #07-34 with Living Systems Restoration not to exceed \$5,000. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dakota Creek Riparian Stewardship Project sub-contracts –

The winning Restoration Crew & Tractor bid was Squalicum Mountain Enterprises in the amount not to exceed \$12,400.

Joyce Jimerson moved to ratify the Dakota Creek Riparian Stewardship Project - Restoration Crew & Tractor sub-contract with Squalicum Mountain Enterprises not to exceed \$12,400. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Okanogan Conservation District –

Okanogan Conservation District requested to enter into an agreement with Whatcom to share personnel. In particular they need Andrew Phay's GIS/IT experience to set up their computer system. Whatcom would be reimbursed for all expenses related to our personnel working in Okanogan. The MOA is effective October 1, 2007 through July 31, 2008.

Joyce Jimerson moved to approve and sign the MOA between Okanogan and Whatcom Conservation Districts, effective October 1, 2007 through July 31, 2008. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Parking Lot Repairs –

The payment repairs went out for bid by RH2. All the bids came back very high. It was decided to reject all of the bids and patch the parking lot. The Whatcom Conservation District has an agreement with the City of Bellingham to use their Small Works Roster. A bid for parking lot patch was obtained.

Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the bid from Whatcom Builders for \$1,955 to temporarily patch the parking lot. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There has been no communication from Verizon regarding the matter. Hopefully the repairs will be done next spring.

Nooksack Recovery Team (NRT) Salmon Summit –

The Nooksack Recovery Team is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2007 at the St. Luke's Community Health Education Center. They are again asking for partners to host one of the sessions. The cost of \$1,000 includes advertising of agency during session and display space. Sabina pointed out that this was a good way to increase the Whatcom Conservation District's profile and get the name out to the public.

Sabina Gouran moved to fund the Salmon Summit for \$1,000 for the Ag session. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Brendan Woodward, Standard Carbon.

Brendan Woodward has a company, Standard Carbon, which is a member of the Chicago Climate Exchange. (Brendan's father has a company that does wetland mitigation banking.) Standard Carbon obtains projects to sell carbon credits. He currently has a carbon credit bank near Snoqualmie River. Carbon credits are purchased by electric companies or others that need

to off-set their carbon footprint. Electric companies are looking for large volumes of carbon credits. Tree plantings are one of the best carbon bank projects. Brendan is interested in making a proposal for CREP buffers to be eligible as carbon credit banks. He discussed how the program works to generate a carbon credit bank. First the Chicago Climate Exchange approves a proposed project or class of projects. Second the projects are verified. Third the project is registered with the Chicago Climate Exchange and carbon credits can be sold. Since it is state-wide CREP could be counted as one project for approval and verification. Brendan felt that the District could do the verification of CREP projects to determine that trees are still in place. Verification of projects requires only 10% on site inspection to determine if trees are in place and growing adequately.

CREP participants that sell their carbon credits would sign over their carbon rights to Standard Carbon through the Chicago Climate Exchange. Brendan explained how the cost of carbon credits is figured. The agreement would say that participants would not sell their carbon credits to others or cut down the trees for the life of the agreement. Agreements are generally 15 years or longer. The longer the contract, the more valuable it is.

Brendan would like the District to do a survey or something to determine the potential interest in carbon credit banking among CREP participants.

B. City of Lynden's Urban Growth Area.

Sherm Polinder informed George that the hearing on the application to add 197 acres of farmland to the City of Lynden's Urban Growth Area had been postponed. Sherm had another meeting to attend at 8:00 p.m., so he left.

George stated that he was asked to respond to the application. He did not wish to without the Board's position being made clear. There was a little discussion. It was decided that the Board could not set a position on the issue without the full Board present to discuss. Ed asked what the previous Board's position was. George explained that the Board's position was that anything zoned Agriculture was for Agriculture. There is only 87,000 acres zoned Ag in Whatcom County which is less than the amount required for a healthy agricultural base. The previous Board would not approve any plan to lose farmland.

C. Alex Hall, NRCS.

EQIP –

The EQIP sign up is under way. Ranking materials and application packets are being distributed. Eight parties have requested information. Notification of the EQIP sign up was in the Lynden Tribune and a bulk mailing was sent out to producers.

The payment system has been shut down for the end of the fiscal year, so no EQIP payments are being made at this time.

Staffing -

Two new employees at the Mt. Vernon NRCS field office will up for training every now and again.

Farm Planning –

Alex and Joy Hawley completed their RMS plans. They have been sent to NRCS for review and approval.

Alex and Joy will be attending the Nutrient Management Training in Leavenworth on October 22 – 26. Chris Clark will be making a presentation there and George will be facilitating.

D. George Boggs.

NW Area meeting –

Bob Barker and George will be attending the NW Area meeting on October 17 in Friday Harbor.

WACD Annual Convention –

The WACD Annual Convention is November 26 – 29 in Vancouver, WA. George asked if any Supervisors could attend. Joyce, Sabina and Ed said that they could not attend.

DID Grant –

George will begin working on the Drainage Improvement District management plan manual.

Whatcom County Contract –

George informed the Board that there have been some hold-ups on getting an inter-local agreement with Whatcom County completed. Whatcom County Council allocated some funds for the District to do small farm planning in conjunction with the Critical Areas Ordinance in January 2007. George will continue to try to get something in place before the end of the year.

Department of Transportation (WDOT) –

George gave the Board an update on the State Route 9 project. We are trying to get it completed before the rains come. Bids are high due to this time of the year. Bill Bonsen has been exceptional on this project.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

07-85 Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the September 11, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

07-86 Ed Stone 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.

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- 07-97 Sabina Gouran moved to fund the Salmon Summit for \$1,000 for the Ag session. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Sabina Gouran moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Dated: December 4, 2007

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____