

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2012**

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 July 11, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Joe Heller, Chair	Terry Lenssen, Vice-Chair
Larry Davis, Treasurer	Larry Helm
Dick Yoder	

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant
Frank Corey, WCD staff	Wayne Chaudiere, WCD staff
Emily Hirsch, WCD staff	

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Joe Heller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the June 20, 2012 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial/Treasurer's Report.

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

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented the financial report. There was discussion about the District budget and accounting system.

Larry Helm moved to approve the Financial Report/Treasurer's. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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:

June 2012 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19566</u>	through	<u>19576</u>	and totaling	<u>87,288.32</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>19577</u>	through	<u>19590</u>	and totaling	<u>27,944.51</u>
July 2012					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19591</u>	through	<u>19597</u>	and totaling	<u>7,572.51</u>

Payroll check numbers:	<u>19585</u>	through	<u>19608</u>	and totaling	<u>19,944.79</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19609</u>	through	<u>19615</u>	and totaling	<u>11,736.74</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>19616</u>	through	<u>19617</u>	and totaling	<u>7,757.54</u>

Moved by Larry Helm. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Set Board meeting day and time.

The Board discussed whether the monthly Board meeting day and time should be adjusted. It was decided that evenings work better than days. The time will stay at 7:00 p.m. There was discussion about changing the day of the month. Conflicts in scheduling around other commitments were discussed. It was agreed that the second Monday of the month worked for all.

Larry Helm moved to change the monthly Board meetings to the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m., effective August 2012. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Riparian Restoration Staff Presentations.

Frank Corey, Emily Hirsch and Wayne Chaudiere introduced themselves to the Board. They shared their education and work background and gave presentations about the programs on which they work.

Frank has an Associate of Science degree in Landscape Horticulture from South Puget Sound Community College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Western Washington University. He worked for four years for the Washington Conservation Corps, implementing riparian restoration projects for the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association. Before that he spent many years growing and planting trees in nurseries and as a landscaper. Frank Corey works with Whatcom County and the corrections program. Frank plans small riparian buffer planting projects within Drainage Districts on cooperating landowner properties. He showed some slides of projects. Other types of projects include stream crossing bridges. Two are planned for next summer. Filter fabric and trees have been planted in levy setbacks on the Nooksack River at Hovander Park, Swift Creek and Bertrand Creek.

Emily Hirsch has a background in biology and geology with two degrees from Western Kentucky University. She grew up in Indiana and has worked as a wetland consultant for a private consultant in Snohomish County. She works on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), coordinates the District's plant sale and newsletter, and will manage the wetland habitat mitigation fund. Emily shared some wildlife photos taken from CREP projects in the county. She shared some of the challenges of establishing and maintaining CREP projects due to noxious weeds and invasive plants and beavers. Emily recently completed the NRCS Conservation Planning Training from NRCS. Other training includes wetland delineations.

Wayne Chaudiere has a degree in Forestry from the University of Washington. He worked as a forester in private industry and also served in the Peace Corps. When Wayne was first hired he worked on a manure composting project and developed conservation plans for small livestock operations. Wayne now works primarily with CREP and has done so since the program was founded in the county. Whatcom and Walla Walla County Conservation Districts are the leading CREP districts in the state. Walla Walla has the most acreage, while Whatcom has more CREP projects. Whatcom has over 310 CREP projects. Wayne shared the CREP tracking database that he and Andrew developed for tracking projects from a contact through installation and finally the five year maintenance period. The goal of the database was to set up tools to make the job easier, efficient and accurate.

There was discussion regarding new tools (ipad) and templates that are being utilized for planning purposes. This will facilitate working with landowners on projects, providing for instant updates for changes for buffers, fencing, etc.

43 miles of hedgerows have been installed in the Drainage Districts through the corrections program. The Drainage Improvement Manual is being used in other counties. King and Skagit are looking at mandatory 35 foot buffers. Whatcom has installed 5-15 foot hedgerows on Drainage Districts. WSU Extension is monitoring stream water/air temperatures that will likely demonstrate that narrow buffers of shrubs are effective to protect stream temperature.

There was discussion regarding the methodology for cleaning and shrub planting on ditches. Both sides of the stream or ditch need to be planted to shade out the reed canarygrass, but they are able to do maintenance by removing and replacing the shrubs or cutting the shrubs back. This is an effective program.

VII. Executive Session.

8:20 pm. Joe Heller, Chair, announced that the public meeting was breaking so that the Whatcom Conservation District Board could go into Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss the tort claim filed against the District.

8:30 pm. Joe Heller adjourned the Executive Session and resumed the public meeting. The Board members received from George Boggs, board attorney, information and a status about the current litigation with Shuksan Golf Course and the Verizon trespass. No action was requested nor taken during the executive session.

VIII. Action Items (continued).

A. Approval of Contracts.

Pemberton & Hoogestraat, PS Attorneys at Law –

Pemberton & Hoogestraat, PS Attorneys at Law provided an estimate for legal services to resolve the trespass by Verizon in the District parking lot. The Board accepted the estimate and authorized hiring Pemberton & Hoogestraat to resolve the matter.

Larry Helm moved to sign the proposal to hire Pemberton & Hoogestraat, PS Attorneys at Law for legal services to resolve the trespass by Verizon, compensating for attorney time at \$250 per hour and paralegal time at \$50 per hour, as well as allowable out of pocket costs incurred by the firm during the course of representation, such as records copying charges, court costs, service of process costs, messenger fees, etc. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Certification of Conservation Plans.

Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP) Certification –

There was one Dairy Nutrient Management Plan submitted for certification by the Board. The certification checklist has been completed by Chris Clark. Vegetative and structural practices are in place and the producer has signed off certifying management according to the plan.

Terry Lensen moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Western Waves (Kevin Dougherty). Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Farm Plan Approval –

There was one CAO Farm Plan submitted for Board approval. Carl Lind rents ground from BP. BP requires that all tenant farmers have an approved conservation plan that protects critical areas

Larry Helm moved to approve the CAO Farm Plan for Carl Lind (BP Bay Road Ag Lease). Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Agreements.

Inter-local Agreement with the 12 Puget Sound Conservation Districts –

Larry Helm voiced concerns that Whatcom County is not looking at the whole problem; cities, wildlife, leach drain fields, farms with regard to pollution sources. They need to look at all of the problems, including Canada. George reported that the Pollution Control Action Team (PCAT) meeting tomorrow with the agencies will go through scenarios. This will help to establish what each agency will do when water quality issues are found. Two-thirds of some watersheds, such as Bertrand and Fishtrap, are located in Canada. We need to engage the Canadians to address water quality concerns.

George explained that Conservation Districts provide a holistic approach. Through an inter-local agreement Conservation Districts can share staff. This creates a structure to get funding and helps with program development. The inter-local agreement was discussed. It is a way to get stuff on the ground more effectively and efficiently.

Larry Helm reported that the Ag Advisory Committee is currently working on Ag Strategic Planning. As a part of this planning process the Ag Overlay is being reviewed for zoning changes. Larry will make copies of the plan to share with the Board.

Dick Yoder moved to approve Whatcom Conservation District entering into an Inter-local Agreement including all 12 Puget Sound Conservation Districts and authorizes the Board to sign the agreement. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis –

As one of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Northwest Area Directors, Larry visited San Juan Island Conservation District yesterday. He shared his observations of the other Conservation Districts that he has visited.

Larry is now a member of the WACD's Nominating Committee for officers.

He shared two model filtering matrix tools that WACD Officers and Directors (O&D) could use to prioritize issues for the association's time and resources.

Larry Helm –

Larry expressed his concern with lack of education regarding agriculture in schools. He had recent exposure that showed a lack of knowledge. Dick said that the Cattlemen have done Ag in the Classroom. Terry mentioned that "Milk Makers Fest" at the Lynden Fairgrounds helps to educate local youths regarding dairying and agriculture. Some roadblocks to getting local youth educated in agriculture are the school education requirements, budgets and the potential liability were a student injured during a farm tour.

B. Alex Hall, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Alex was not in attendance but provided a written report that was shared by George.

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Partnership (PSSRP) – There are eight potential Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Partnership (PSSRP) contracts in the works for approximately \$1million total. Four are for fish passage and stream habitat improvement projects and four are for decommissioning/upgrading waste storage facilities. The contracting deadline is August 1, 2012.

C. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Conservation Partnership Grant –

Rick Noble, NRCS-WA, West Area representative, emailed a letter to the State office urging support for the final proposal for the Conservation Partnership proposal that Frank Corey submitted. It has made it into the second round.

Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC) –

George was invited to participate on the FRRCC committee for another two years. George shared the national approach by the committee and EPA versus the state level approach. At the national level EPA wants the volunteer approach, but at the state level in Washington, Ecology does not want to work through the voluntary process, but would rather use their policy and manuals.

X. Record of Board Actions.

12-62 Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the June 20, 2012 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-63 Larry Helm moved to approve the Financial Report/Treasurer’s. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-64

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12-67 Terry Lenssen moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Western Waves (Kevin Dougherty). Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-68 Larry Helm moved to approve the CAO Farm Plan for Carl Lind (BP Bay Road Ag Lease). Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-69 Dick Yoder moved to approve Whatcom Conservation District entering into an Inter-local Agreement including all 12 Puget Sound Conservation Districts and authorizes the Board to sign the agreement. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

XI. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Dated: August 28, 2012

Approved: _____

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant