

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2014**

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 April 10, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Joe Heller, Chair
Larry Davis, Treasurer

Terry Lenssen, Vice-Chair
Larry Helm

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant
Dan Heeringa, Supervisor elect

Alex Hall, NRCS staff
Chris Elder, Whatcom County PDR program

III. Meeting Called to Order.

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

IV. Public Comment.

There were no public comments.

V. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Larry Helm moved that the minutes of the March 13, 2014 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Financial Report.

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

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented the financial report. There were no questions.

Larry Helm moved to approve the Financial Report. Larry Davis 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:

March 2014 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>21326</u>	through	<u>21345</u>	and totaling	<u>13,705.44</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>21346</u>	through	<u>21360</u>	and totaling	<u>29,963.60</u>

April 2014				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>21361</u>	through	<u>21382</u>	and totaling <u>21,971.91</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>21383</u>	through	<u>21396</u>	and totaling <u>29,364.53</u>

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

Terry Lenssen arrived at 7:20 p.m.

VII. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP) Approval –

There was one Dairy Nutrient Management Plan submitted for Board approval. Staff recommended approval as it contained the necessary elements prescribed by the Conservation Commission and the operator had signed it, indicating that it accurately reflects his operation and agrees to its implementation.

Larry Helm moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan Update for:

- **JV Dairy (Jeremy Visser - operator) – (Jay & Debbie DeJong farm owner).**

Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Conservation Farm Plan Approval –

Chuck Timblin completed an inventory and farm plan for Ron & Sally Postma Rentals (Rick Feddema – farm operator). It fulfilled the requisite elements for that type of plan. Staff recommended Board approval.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Critical Areas Ordinance Conservation Farm Plan for:

- **Ron & Sally Postma Rentals – Rick Feddema (farm operator).**

Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Contracts.

EPA – Birch Bay Project Cost-share –

Frank Corey submitted a cost-share application for Calvin & Taryn Cardwell to install gutters and downspouts on the barn, manure storage/compost facility, and tree and shrub establishment along ditches and beaver impounded waters as part of the EPA Birch Bay project.

Larry Helm moved to approve the EPA Birch Bay Project cost-share application for Calvin & Taryn Cardwell for \$4,990. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) –

The Board asked about the status of new contracts for CREP. George reported that the Farm Bill had been passed and that FSA was working on program rules. Until those rules are in place no new plans can be approved. The District has been given the okay to start the Cultural Resources Review process.

C. Delegation of Authority to Hire Architect.

George reported that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was published and that the District received five responses. One was non-responsive. The other four will be interviewed. George will set up a Building Committee to do interviews, select an appropriate architect firm and negotiate a contract to be brought to the Board for review and approval.

Larry Davis moved to delegate authority to the District Chair and Executive Director to interview, select an appropriate architect firm and negotiate a contract to be brought to the Board for review and approval. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Other Business.

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

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) –

The Farm Bill passed, but the rule making process is still underway. NRCS cannot obligate any funds at this point, but they can put EQIP contracts into the database. The deadline for taking applications for round 3 is May 16, 2014 for EQIP, and the Energy, Organic, and High Tunnel Initiatives.

There was a question and Alex reviewed how funding allocations have worked in the past. First funding split for the various initiatives is allocated. If there are any remaining funds, those go back into the main EQIP for more contracts.

National Water Quality Initiative –

The sign-up deadline is May 16, 2014. The targeted watersheds are Wiser Lake and Fishtrap Creek. Practices that will prevent surface discharge are priority.

Local Work Group –

The Local Work Group is scheduled for April 30, 2014 at the Tulalip Administration Building. All NRCS planners in the cluster are being asked to attend this year.

NRCS Practice Recommendations to the Local Work Group –

There was discussion regarding NRCS practices for EQIP and getting the best benefit for the buck. Manure storage and pond covers are important. It was also noted that for storage an increase in the current cap to \$100,000 should be recommended.

Terry Lenssen moved to direct George Boggs to carry the message to the Local Work Group to place more emphasis on storage improvements, including new storage, pond covers, and improvements to existing storage facilities with an increase in the current cap for storage to \$100,000. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

It was suggested to offer separate Water Quality Initiatives for advanced nutrient management or cover crops with a continuous sign-up. There could be a tiered level with cover crops, depending upon if they are harvested or not would impact the amount of funding received. This would provide the biggest immediate water quality impact.

There was discussion regarding the request for funding advanced nutrient management, which includes GPS mapping, soil sampling and manure sampling.

USDA Training Video –

Alex reported that NRCS and FSA staff participated in the making of an USDA Training Video about working on the border.

B. Supervisor Reports.

Chris Elder is the new Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) coordinator for Whatcom County. He is introducing himself to the community.

Larry Davis –

Larry reported on his activities as a Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) member. He is screening fifteen District Supervisor candidates for appointment by the WSCC to 13 Conservation Districts. He is recusing himself from interviewing Whatcom's appointed supervisor candidate, Joe Heller.

The three regional WSCC representatives participate in the WACD Executive Director meetings.

An All-Districts meeting in Ellensburg on April 23 & 24, 2014 will discuss the Proposed 2015-17 Biennium Budget Process.

Larry discussed the possible development of a ranking scoring template for projects to be used for funding projects.

Larry sent comments to Maia Bellon, Director, Department of Ecology, and Vic Stokes, President, Washington Cattlemen's Association, and both co-chairs of the DOE Agriculture and Water Quality Advisory Committee, regarding the need to define "Substantial Potential to Pollute."

Terry Lenssen –

Terry and his brother have the #1 Jersey herd out of 21 and #4 in Holsteins out of 55 in Whatcom County according to the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) test.

Western Washington University students toured the Lenssen farm with Nichole Embertson and Corina Cheever. The focus of the class is soil structure. They talked about the Applied Risk Management (ARM) study and manure testing.

Terry is officially on the Dairy Federation State Board as the ex-officio member representing Western Washington. He reported on the next meeting in Yakima.

Larry Helm –

It was a very wet March. He had to move the cows a lot because of mud issues.

WCD Livestock Speaker Series – Larry has attended several of the Livestock Speaker Series sessions. It appears to be going well. He was concerned that the last session the featured speaker did not show up causing Nichole to have to fill in the entire presentation.

Ag Advisory Committee – Larry reported on the Ag Advisory Committee meeting. Rud Browne and Carl Weimer were present. Henry Bierlink brought up drainage issues at the meeting. George told Larry Helm that the Whatcom Conservation District developed a Drainage Manual with the ability to obtain a five-year Hydraulic Permit Authority (HPA) permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife with a drainage plan.

C. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Carl Weimer's Email –

There was discussion regarding the email and comments on Whatcom County's Water Plan. George has a draft to work from to provide the District's stand on the survey. There are 300 projects on the Whatcom County list. George will mark what we currently do with an R and what we could potentially do with a P and incorporate into our Annual and Long Range Plan, and provide a response in writing.

Department of Ag Referrals –

The Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Committee is interested in providing funding for the Conservation District to work with referrals. There was much discussion regarding how the District would potentially work with individuals identified with a pollution problem. The concern is not with those willing to work with us, but what to do if they are not willing to work with us. It was suggested that a person with appropriate messaging could be put into the field as a contact person for people to work with no Whatcom County enforcement. It would also be helpful to have resources for outreach and workshops.

Resource Technician Position –

George reported that the first round of applicants to fill Corina Cheever's position did not yield an optimal candidate. He will proceed to advertise round two for applications and interviews.

Senator Cantwell's Staff Tour –

George reported that staff from Senator Cantwell's office are going to tour Whatcom County for three hours providing an opportunity to show them successes and issues with buffer and EQIP/cost-share projects.

Associate Supervisors –

Terry asked about the process to become an Associate Supervisor.

IX. Record of Board Actions.

14-24 Larry Helm moved that the minutes of the March 13, 2014 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-25 Larry Helm moved to approve the Financial Report. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

14-26

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14-27 Larry Helm moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan Update for:

- JV Dairy (Jeremy Visser - operator) – (Jay & Debbie DeJong farm owner).

Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-28 Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Critical Areas Ordinance Conservation Farm Plan for:

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Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-29 Larry Helm moved to approve the EPA Birch Bay Project cost-share application for Calvin & Taryn Cardwell for \$4,990. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-30 Larry Davis moved to delegate authority to the District Chair and Executive Director to interview select an appropriate architect firm and negotiate a contract to be brought to the Board for review and approval. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-31 Terry Lenssen moved to direct George Boggs to carry the message to the Local Work Group to place more emphasis on storage improvements, including new storage, pond covers, and improvements to existing storage facilities with an increase in the current cap for storage to \$100,000. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Terry Lenssen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Dated: May 21, 2014

Approved: _____

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant