

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
December 9, 2009**

**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 December 9, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Attendance and Quorum.**

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

Dick Yoder	Ed Stone
Joe Heller	Larry Davis
Terry Lenssen	

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, District Manager	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant
--------------------------------	--------------------------------

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Dick Yoder, 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 November 17, 2009 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 November meeting.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report. There were no questions.

**Joe Heller 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:

Nov 2009 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17326</u>	through	<u>17332</u>	and totaling	<u>11,103.90</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>17333</u>	through	<u>17344</u>	and totaling	<u>25,581.04</u>
December 2009					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17345</u>	through	<u>17377</u>	and totaling	<u>46,233.28</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>17378</u>	through	<u>17389</u>	and totaling	<u>25,548.27</u>

**Moved by Joe Heller. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **VI. Action Items.**

### **A. Approval of Contracts.**

#### CREP Contracts –

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the administrative lead on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) joint program. The FSA County Committee approves all CREP plans. The current policy is that once FSA approves the Federal Contract and CREP plan, the contract is then brought to the Board for its approval. The Board approved the State Conservation Commission prescribed standard-language contract.

There was one project submitted for Board approval.

**Larry Davis moved to ratify the CREP contract for Alan Soicher (10-04-CR:09-33). Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

#### Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (WCFCZD) Contract –

The WCFCZD would like to contract with the District in the amount of \$10,000 for Frank Corey to provide riparian project design work for non-Ecology grant funded Flood Control Zone Projects.

**Joe Heller moved to authorize the Chair to sign the Flood Control Zone Project Coordination contract #200912036 in the amount of \$10,000. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

#### Intergovernmental Agreement for State Purchasing Cooperative –

The State of Washington Department of General Administration Office of State Procurement sent a notice that the District's current membership expires on December 31, 2009. To continue the District's membership two signed copies of the Inter-Governmental Agreement and two-year membership dues need to be submitted by the end of the year. George advised the Board that the District has used the State Purchasing Cooperative for software purchases and vehicles.

**Larry Davis moved to approve and sign the Inter-Governmental Agreement for State Purchasing Cooperative and submit dues in the amount of \$400 for a two-year membership. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### **B. Supervisor Election.**

George discussed Supervisor elections and the experience that some Conservation District's have had with their elections. He suggested that the Board consider more effective outreach to publicize the upcoming Supervisor election. There was discussion regarding how to hold the election to maximize voter turn-out. After reviewing several alternatives the Board decided to have a mail-in election in addition to the March 9, 2010 election poll at the Conservation District Office.

**Joe Heller moved adopt and sign Resolution 09-4 Whatcom Conservation District Supervisors Election Resolution to hold the Whatcom Conservation District Supervisor election at the District office on March 9, 2010 with the polls open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Additionally the District will have a mail-in election with ballot distribution by request. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **VII. Other Business.**

### **A. Supervisor Reports.**

#### Terry Lenssen –

Terry met with Nichole Embertson to review his updated Dairy Nutrient Management Plan with the new format and the Application Risk Management (ARM) system. Staff is working with a

select few farmers to use the ARM system for winter manure application. Terry has high ground that makes his farm suitable for the program. Other ARM program requirements can be found on the District website at: <http://www.whatcomcd.org/FarmAssist/Dairy/Dairy.html>.

Terry reported that Jason Penzer, WSDA Dairy Inspector, is leaving. The Washington Department of Ag will be hiring a new dairy inspector for Whatcom County.

Terry reported that there was another dust storm coming from the berry fields around their farm. He is not only concerned about the air quality, but also the loss of soil. 40 acres is plowed and bare which causes dust to fly with the slightest winds. Terry inquired about any air quality regulations to address the matter. George said that he did not believe that there are any air quality regulations regarding dust. It was suggested that the best way to proceed is to try education and outreach on dust, soil loss and cover crops. Terry will contact Chuck Timblin regarding the matter and have him discuss it with Henry Bierlink, Raspberry Commission.

It was suggested that an intern to connect with the East Indian berry growers would be a good asset for the District.

#### Joe Heller –

Joe and George attended the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) annual meeting in Spokane. Joe gave some highlights of the event. There were 34 resolutions brought forth at this year's convention. The Whatcom Conservation District's Beaver control resolution passed. Larry Davis asked about the resolutions and what happens to them. George and Joe reported that in the updates given on past resolutions approximately 50% are pending action.

Frank Corey received the 2009 WACD Special Service Award. The Whatcom Conservation District was awarded District of the Year.

Joe shared with the Board some comments from Roylene Rides at the Door's, NRCS State Conservationist, report given at the WACD convention. Roylene said that NRCS likes to work with Conservation Districts to get projects done. NRCS has provided funds for CD staff of do planning and other activities through the Technical Service Provider (TSP) program. Whatcom Conservation District has received several TSP contracts.

#### Larry Davis –

The Chairs of the statewide Local Work Groups will meet in Ellensburg on January 26, 2010. Larry will attend.

Under the current EQIP work plan the interpretation is that forestry practices can not be done on ag land, whether they are prime or not. We would like to explore tree planting on marginal ag land through EQIP. Larry will get background information from other Conservation Districts.

#### Dick Yoder –

Dick passed out a letter to Harriet Allen, Endangered and Threatened Species Section Manager Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, from the Wolf Working Group listing Four Alternatives for Wolf Conservation and Management Plans for Washington with their preference. Dick suggested that George coordinate with Mike Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District Manager, regarding offering comments from conservation districts on the wolf management issues. There was Board discussion of the letter and alternatives listed. There was discussion regarding how many wolves equal a breeding pair. In Idaho 8 breeding pairs equal 900 animals. There is a confirmed pack of wolves in Twisp. Dick stated that David Mech, Senior Scientist with the Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, and Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota, is an authority on wolves and had talked with the Cattlemen's Association.

**Terry Lensen moved that the District express support for Alternative 1a. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**B. George Boggs, District Manager.**

Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) Grant –

The Centennial Clean Water Fund grant application for the BBWARM (Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management) landowner led initiative to address stormwater in the upper watershed to Birch Bay was completed and submitted to the Department of Ecology.

George intends to take the concept and broaden it to write an application for Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Puget Sound Request for Proposal (RFP).

WACD Annual Convention –

George gave Frank Corey's presentation and one on public disclosure issues at the WACD Annual Convention.

George is working on draft documents for individuals that work with the Conservation District to know that we may have public disclosure. Most planning items are excluded from discovery. Landowners have voiced a concern about disclosing their farm plan information to Whatcom County.

EPA –

George has been in contact with the EPA regarding Swift Creek. The problem is bigger than they anticipated. It is unlikely that the landslide will be stabilized due the cost and difficulty of the engineering challenge. Asbestos is being carried in Sumas river water and being deposited along its banks clear to the Fraser River. When the river overtops its banks it is being deposited on farm land. Modeling needs to be done to show the progression of the asbestos travel and the short time span that it is taking to travel. The sediment being deposited not only presents a health hazard, but may impact crop production due to the Calcium/Magnesium imbalance. George suggested that the District become more involved in the process because of its experience working with the farmers in the affected area. There was a similar problem in California. George will contact NRCS to get the information.

Bellingham Herald –

George was interviewed by the Bellingham Herald regarding farm plans, the Whatcom Conservation District and misinformation that is in the community. He felt that he was well received and hopes that the article comes out good. The Herald intends to interview some people who have gone through the farm plan process to ask their experiences.

Webinar –

George has done some legal continuing education webinars to maintain his active status and will continue to do some more to keep up his license to practice law.

Long Range Plan –

The Long Range Plan with corrections in the new format was passed out to the Board for review and additional comments. The Board is to review and be prepared to provide comment at the next meeting.

Whatcom Education Forum –

George was contacted to participate in "Water Weeks" celebration. There was discussion regarding proposed events. It was decided that the District could partner with the local Cattlemen's Association on a "Cows for Clean Water" open house as part of the county-wide Water Weeks event.

Award –

There was Board discussion regarding what to do for staff, since they won the WACD District of the Year. George reported that historically awards in the amount of \$100 or coats have been given to staff. The Board will continue to think about what award to give their employees.

**VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**09-110 Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the November 17, 2009 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**09-111 Joe Heller 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.**

**09-112**

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

Nov 2009 - balance

Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17326</u>	through	<u>17332</u>	and totaling	<u>11,103.90</u>
-------------------------	--------------	---------	--------------	--------------	------------------

Payroll check numbers:	<u>17333</u>	through	<u>17344</u>	and totaling	<u>25,581.04</u>
------------------------	--------------	---------	--------------	--------------	------------------

December 2009

Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17345</u>	through	<u>17377</u>	and totaling	<u>46,233.28</u>
-------------------------	--------------	---------	--------------	--------------	------------------

Payroll check numbers:	<u>17378</u>	through	<u>17389</u>	and totaling	<u>25,548.27</u>
------------------------	--------------	---------	--------------	--------------	------------------

**Moved by Joe Heller. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**09-113 Larry Davis moved to ratify the CREP contract for Alan Soicher (10-04-CR:09-33). Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**09-114 Joe Heller moved to authorize the Chair to sign the Flood Control Zone Project Coordination contract #200912036 in the amount of \$10,000. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**09-115 Larry Davis moved to approve and sign the Inter-Governmental Agreement for State Purchasing Cooperative and submit dues in the amount of \$400 for a two-year membership. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**09-116 Joe Heller moved adopt and sign Resolution 09-4 Whatcom Conservation District Supervisors Election Resolution to hold the Whatcom Conservation District Supervisor election at the District office on March 9, 2010 with the polls open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Additionally the District will have a mail-in election with ballot distribution by request. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**09-117 Terry Lenssen moved that the District express support for Alternative 1a. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**IX. Adjournment.**

Having no further business, Dick Yoder adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Dated: February 1, 2010

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant