

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
January 10, 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 January 10, 2007, at 12:15 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sabina Gouran	<input 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"/>	Joy Hawley, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Chris Clark, Resource Specialist

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:13 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the December 13, 2006 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

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

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

Dick Yoder moved to approve the Financial Report. Ed Stone 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:

Dec 2006 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14652</u>	through	<u>14688</u>	and totaling	<u>49,564.73</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14689</u>	through	<u>14701</u>	and totaling	<u>18,377.14</u>
January 2007					

Voucher (check) numbers 14702 through 14713 and totaling 5,952.58
Payroll check numbers: 14714 through 14726 and totaling 20,526.98
moved by Dick Yoder. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

CREP –

The Board was asked to rescind contract number 06-04-CR01:06-05 for Gurbax Gill due to sale of property. The property was sold during the Farm Service Agency County Committee approval process. The purchaser is interested in enrolling in CREP, but due to confusion in timing the contract was not approved prior to sale of the property and the new landowner will have to wait a year to enroll in CREP.

Ed Stone moved to rescind contract number 06-04-CR01:06-05 for Gurbax Gill, since he is not a participant in the CREP program. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Department of Ecology Water Meter Contracts –

There are two contracts for the Department of Ecology's Water Meter program. Both are water associations.

Ed Stone moved to approve and authorize Board signature for the water meter cost-share contracts for Willey's Lake Water Association (\$2,128.38) and Lake Terrill Water Association (\$1,435.62) not to exceed the funding as outlined following Ecology approval. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dick asked about producer interest in the water metering program. There currently is no interest from producers.

Potential Technical Service Provider (TSP) Contract –

George explained Technical Service Provider (TSP) contracts to the Board. NRCS has extended the opportunity to enter into a TSP contract between now and September 2007. George explained some of his concerns regarding entering into a TSP at this time. Staff is fully committed to grants through June 30, 2007. There is provision for TSP contracts through the Governor's budget which would provide a longer term agreement. The request did not have any tasks or dollar figures attached to it, so it was very hard to determine what NRCS was requesting in the way of TSP. Some funds through the Livestock grant would allow staff to assist NRCS through June. The Board agreed to hold off on entering into a TSP contract with NRCS until the next biennium in July 2007.

Drainage Improvement District (DID) Education Grant –

The Department of Ecology (WDOE) DID Education grant contract was signed by Jerry Van Dellen and sent to WDOE to be signed. The District can begin work after WDOE signs the contract. Frank Corey is attending the annual Drainage Improvement District meetings. He has had discussions regarding the new grant with them.

B. Livestock.

Three Dairy Nutrient Management Plans were presented to the Board for approval.

Dick Yoder moved to approve Dairy Nutrient Farm plans for Eldridge Farms (Matt Eldridge), Tim Vander Haak Dairy and Green View Dairy (Derek Blanken) that were reviewed and submitted for Board approval. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Dick Yoder brought up the UN report, "Agriculture's Long Shadow," that George sent to the supervisors. There was a discussion regarding air emissions.

Jerry reported on water use differences shown in an article that he read. The article stated that they used 28 gallons of water per cow on average, not the 50 gallons per cow that is generally given.

B. George Boggs.

Scheduled Events –

John Gillies' retirement dinner is January 19, 2007 at the Lynden Museum.

NACD Annual Convention is February 4-8, 2007 in Los Angeles, CA.

Governor's Budget –

George reported the budget as proposed by the Governor. There are more funds in the WA Conservation Commission's budget than in previous bienniums. However, it appears that Puget Sound Districts will be excluded from receiving Implementation funds. Therefore these Districts could receive \$105,000 less than the other Districts. George explained that this is a change in policy from equal division of funding for all Districts. Dick wanted to know if the distribution of funds was based on need. George agreed that the Conservation Commission should put the funds where there is a need and problems to address. George sought advice from the Board on how to address the discrepancy in funding. The Commission is scheduled to discuss the funding at their January 17, 2007 meeting. It was decided to seek distribution based on need and identified problems. The Board opted to seek an increase in Puget Sound funding based on the need when talking with the legislature.

Office of Land Protection –

George reported that the Governor has put funds into the budget for Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs on farm and forest lands. Senators Haugen and Spanel introduced legislation for farms only. George asked the Board their feelings on including forestry lands in the PDR program. The Whatcom County PDR committee will meet to discuss this on January 12.

Livestock Cost-share –

Chris Clark discussed the status of the current and proposed 2007-09 livestock cost-share available from the WA Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission will discuss redistribution of the unused livestock cost-share funds at their January 17, 2007 meeting. Chris passed out an information sheet on cost-share and questions regarding the District's policy, eligible practices and lifespan of the practices and contract life. There was discussion regarding using the NRCS's cost-list for the state cost-share program, since state cost-share pays 75% of actual costs.

After some discussion regarding cost-share practices, contract life and efficient use of funds, the Board decided on a policy. Cost-share is only available for livestock operations with a farm plan and the cost-share equipment is called for in the farm plan. Cost-share will be problem driven to address existing and significant problems with a substantial likelihood of a discharge if nothing is done. No cost-share will be given for operations on rented ground without landowner entering into agreement for the life of the contract. No replacement of equipment or upgrades will be cost-shared. The life of cost-share contracts is 5 years.

Whatcom County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) –

George asked the Board to review the draft MOU with Whatcom County to see if they agreed with the policy outlined. Whatcom County has not responded to the draft. Dick Yoder agreed to be a representative for the District at a meeting to contract on the MOU.

CREP maintenance –

There has been no feedback from NRCS or FSA regarding the CREP maintenance guidance sent to them for review. George asked the Board to review and submit comments by March. The CREP maintenance guidance needs to be firm in order to use for the spring CREP maintenance.

Wetlands Mitigation Banking –

George attended a meeting of the State Advisory Committee. He met with the section manager who shared Kelli Linville's concept of a Whatcom County mitigation bank pilot project. The County would run the bank to ensure community interests are addressed. The Whatcom Conservation District would provide technical assistance and outreach to potential cooperators. There are landowners that are interested in the concept. Since John Gillies was our wetlands delineator and because NRCS would not do delineation if it is not their project, George is sending Sonya Schaller to training to be able to complete wetlands delineations. George requested authorization to attend a Wetland Mitigation Bank Conference in Missouri. The conference will cost approximately \$1,000.

Dick Yoder authorized George Boggs to attend the Wetland Mitigation Bank Conference in April in Missouri. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Air Quality –

George made a brief 3 minute presentation before the House Ag Committee regarding emerging issue of air quality that could impact Agriculture. The biannual meeting of the cross boundary group is January 17.

Stone/Thomas –

George sent a copy of a beaver deceiver design to all individuals involved as a possible solution to the drainage problem. The District is waiting for Lidar from Whatcom County and better weather to conduct a survey.

C. Joy Hawley, NRCS.

John Gillies' position is a high priority to be filled but there is no budget for NRCS.

EQIP sign up is still open. There are 14 applicants from Whatcom County is year.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

07-1 Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the December 13, 2006 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

07-2 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Financial Report. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

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- 07-4 Ed Stone moved to rescind contract number 06-04-CR01:06-05 for Gurbax Gill, since he is not a participant in the CREP program. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 07-5 Ed Stone moved to approve and authorize Board signature for the water meter cost-share contracts for Willey's Lake Water Association (\$2,128.38) and Lake Terrill Water Association (\$1,435.62) not to exceed the funding as outlined following Ecology approval. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 07-6 Dick Yoder moved to approve Dairy Nutrient Farm plans for Eldridge Farms (Matt Eldridge), Tim Vander Haak Dairy and Green View Dairy (Derek Blanken) that were reviewed and submitted for Board approval. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 07-7 Dick Yoder authorized George Boggs to attend the Wetland Mitigation Bank Conference in April in Missouri. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Ed Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Dated: February 20, 2007

Approved: _____

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant