

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2004**

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 8, 2004, at 12:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Barker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fred Tjoelker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cornelius Timmermans
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rod Visser		

Also in attendance were:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs, District Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Gillies, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		

III. Presiding Officers

Robert Barker as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:00 p.m.

IV. Treasurer's Report.

Since the December's Board meeting was held on December 31, 2003, the Financial Report containing Income and Expenses, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Analysis presented at that time included all activity to date. No additional financial report was presented at January's meeting.

Review and approval of payment of District invoices and incurred expenses, as listed in the Treasurer's Report. 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:

January 2004

Voucher (check) numbers 11853 through 11869 and totaling 13,140.88
moved by Fred Tjoelker. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Reports Committees.

A. Supervisor Activities.

Bob Barker –

The Conservation Commission is seeking ways to reduce costs to the state in the CREP program. The CREP Task Force was set up to provide information for the state to better plan funding needs. We are currently gathering information from other CREP Districts to provide to WACD and the Conservation Commission to pass on to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and Legislature. Estimates and projects have proven to be low in the beginning of the program. Western Washington has maintenance issues due competition with reed canary grass and blackberries. This requires more maintenance during the first few years. After looking into maintenance and installation costs from other agencies, such as the tribes and NSEA, CREP costs are reasonable by comparison.

B. George Boggs.

CREP –

George reported that the Conservation Commission is asking for \$2 million for the CREP program. This figure is half of our current commitments given the numbers provided to Commission staff by districts last fall. WACD is requesting supervisors to meet with their respective legislators and apprise them of this anticipated shortfall.

Legislative Initiative –

The Livestock Program is asking for \$.5 million from the state Legislature. They are seeking District support for the proposal. There was discussion concerning the advisability of asking for money to start a new program when there is a shortfall for an existing program (CREP).

CIDMP –

The Watershed Improvement (Irrigation) District was formed in Bertrand Creek. Things are on track for development of the Comprehensive Irrigation District Plan by June 2004.

Pond Liner Task Force –

The Pond Liner Task Force met. Currently Washington State is more restrictive than the National standard. The National standard allows the use of additional engineering safeguards where there is a high water table and also gives credit for “manure sealing.” By foreclosing these options, construction costs for ponds meeting the Washington standard are prohibitively expensive. In fact, there have been no new ponds in Whatcom County since adoption of that standard. Additional storage is very desirable given our climatic conditions. It is generally felt that there is a greater potential for pollution to ground and surface water due to inadequate storage than the initial seepage before ponds seal themselves with manure. Erica and Chris along with others on the committee are working on this issue. The Department of Ag Dairy Inspector job has not been filled yet. This position will cover all the counties from King County North to Whatcom.

CCWF -

The District is writing two Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) grant applications for this funding cycle. The deadline is February 3, 2004. One would be to continue the work in the Ten-mile watershed. The other addresses the needs of Drayton Harbor.

VI. Executive Session.

At 12:35 p.m. the Board announced that it would adjourn to executive session until 1:30 to review the performance of specific district employees. The Board reconvened at 1:28 and directed the manager to take specific action regarding two employees granting merit increases.

Due to work load, proficiency demonstrated and exemplary performance, Chris Clark was awarded a pay increase to C1 Step 6.

Rod Visser moved to increase Chris Clark to C1 Step 6. Fred Tjoelker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Due to qualifications, proficiency demonstrated with District computer network and exemplary performance, Andrew Phay was awarded a pay increase to C1 Step 5.

Rod Visser moved to increase Andrew Phay to C1 Step 5. Fred Tjoelker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board considered the pay scale for the Administrative Assistant position. Whatcom pays less than other Conservation Districts, City of Bellingham and Whatcom County for similar

responsibilities. To attract and maintain professionals for that position, the Board made the following resolution.

The position is renamed to Office Coordinator. The pay scale for this position is to be the same as for Resource Specialists (Band C1).

Fred Tjoelker moved to reclassify Dawn Bekenyi from Office Specialist to Office Coordinator. The pay scale for this position is Band C1. With the reclassification Dawn will be at C1 Step 3. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board further directed George to review benefits package and alternative ways to control costs. The Board would like to further review merit increases and how they are determined.

The February Board meeting will be deferred until the third week (February 19, 2004) because the Chair is out of town.

Record of Board Actions.

04-1

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

January 2004

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moved by Fred Tjoelker. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-2

Rod Visser moved to increase Chris Clark to C1 Step 6. Fred Tjoelker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-3

Rod Visser moved to increase Andrew Phay to C1 Step 5. Fred Tjoelker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-4

Fred Tjoelker moved to reclassify Dawn Bekenyi from Office Specialist to Office Coordinator. The pay scale for this position is Band C1. With the reclassification Dawn will be at C1 Step 3. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Fred Tjoelker moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:32 p.m. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Dated: February 26, 2004

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant