

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2005**

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 March 10, 2005, 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 type="checkbox"/> | Jerry Van Dellen |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rod Visser | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cornelius Timmermans |

Also in attendance were:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | George Boggs, District Manager | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | John Gillies, NRCS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant | | Chris Clark, WCD Technician |
| | Stu Trefry, Conservation Commission | | Derek Long, Sustainable Connections |

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Robert Barker as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:15 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Rod Visser moved that the minutes of the February 10, 2005 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Chris Clark.

Dairy Cost-share –

The WA Conservation Commission sent out an email saying that there is \$101,000 available for cost-share for dairy operations. Chris explained the criteria for this cost-share as outlined by the Conservation Commission. He also explained that the Commission has already received \$160,000 worth of requests. There are four producers that fit the criteria outlined. Chris explained the needs that the cost-share would address for the four producers. The Board discussed and prioritized the projects.

Cornie Timmermans moved to submit the following priority list of Dairy cost-share applications to the WA Conservation Commission: 1. Drue Dickison \$6,000 for a manure pump (tied) 1. Allan Huttema \$11,099.36 for sump pump, pipe and manure pump 3. Allan Van Hofwegen \$2,124 for sump pump and underground outlet 4. Aron Hovander \$6,000 for manure pump. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Manure Digester –

Chris invited the Board to attend the open house at the Vander Haak's manure digester today at 2:00 pm.

The nutrient numbers from manure coming off of the digester are unclear. Chris proposed that we do some nutrient testing. There is approximately \$1,000 left in the funds that the Board designated for nutrient testing. The Board agreed that the digester nutrient testing would be valuable.

VI. Financial Report.

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

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

Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the Financial Report. Rod Visser 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:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Feb 2005- balance | | | | | |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>12927</u> | through | <u>12943</u> | and totaling | <u>16,066.57</u> |
| Payroll check numbers: | <u>12944</u> | through | <u>12957</u> | and totaling | <u>18,215.81</u> |
| March 2005 | | | | | |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>12958</u> | through | <u>12977</u> | and totaling | <u>7,018.94</u> |
| Payroll check numbers: | <u>12978</u> | through | <u>12992</u> | and totaling | <u>19,422.43</u> |

moved by Cornie Timmermans. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Action Items.

A. Supervisor Vacancy.

Randy Kinley sent a letter of resignation was sent to the Conservation Commission and the Whatcom Conservation District. There was discussion regarding the vacant position. The Whatcom Conservation District board can appoint someone to fill the vacant elected Supervisor position until the term is up. There are two years left until the term expires. There was regarding potential candidates. It was decided that the Board would make a list of candidates and make the initial phone call to see if there is any interest. George could follow-up on interest shown explaining the duties and commitment required of a District supervisor.

B. Dairy.

Four new dairy farm plans were written and submitted for Board approval.

Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Farm plans for Aron Hovander (8133), Scott Hilt (Gold Crest Farm 2104), Dwayne Plagerman (2107), and Kevin Engelsma (Meadow Park Dairy 9039) reviewed and submitted for Board approval. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of Contracts.

Washington Governmental Entity Pool (WGEP) –

The WGEP has reviewed the existing Intergovernmental Contract (IGC) which is the formation document of the pool. For the first time in 15 years, they made some changes. The changes were explained to the Board. The WGEP is requesting all of its members to sign a new Intergovernmental Contract reflecting the changes.

Rod Visser moved to approve and sign the Intergovernmental Contract with the Washington Governmental Entity Pool. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Department of Ag –

The WA Department of Ag sent a contract with the Whatcom Conservation District to administer and contract with the Northwest Indian College (NWIC) to conduct water quality monitoring at selected sites and times within the Nooksack River basin. The contract shall begin March 1, 2005 and be completed by July 15, 2005 and is for \$6,000 pass through.

Rod Visser moved to approve and sign Interagency Agreement (IAA 05-17-04) with the Department of Agriculture to subcontract with NWIC to do water quality monitoring in the amount of \$6,000. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Rod Visser moved to subcontract (contract number 05-13) with the Northwest Indian College to do water quality monitoring under Interagency Agreement (IAA 05-17-04) in the amount of \$6,000. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Sustainable Connections.

Derek Long from Sustainable Connections came and spoke with the Board. Sustainable Connections is a nonprofit organization with 400 members. They have been around for 3 years. Their campaign "Think Local First" has been in the stores for 2 years. They are launching a new food and farming program. Derek passed out some information on the program. The new "Fresh from the Farm" map should be out in May. They are seeking advertisers now. Sustainable Connections is also working on a coupon book on the line of the Chinook book.

E. Approval of Contracts (cont.)

Tenmile Phase III subcontracts –

The Department of Ecology Tenmile Phase III Grant (G0500076) was approved and signed on January 21, 2005. Task 3 of the contract calls for the District subcontracting with a Project Manager (Dorie Belisle) to continue public education and outreach in the Tenmile Watershed. Task 5 calls for the District subcontracting with the Northwest Indian College (NWIC) to do water quality monitoring at two sites (4 up and 4 down) on Fourmile Creek. Subcontracts based on the grant contract with the Department of Ecology have been drafted for both Dorie Belisle and NWIC and were submitted for Board approval and signature.

Rod Visser moved to approve and sign the subcontracts with the Northwest Indian College in the amount of \$1,536 and Dorie Belisle in the amount of \$75,000 plus some match requirements for both parties under the Tenmile Phase III Grant (G0500076). Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Janitorial Contract –

At the January 13, 2005 Board meeting the Board moved to enter into a contract with Greg's Professional Cleaning Service for janitorial services. The contract is ready to be signed.

Rod Visser moved to sign the contract for janitorial services with Greg's Professional Cleaning Service in the amount of \$520 per month. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Other Business.

A. George Boggs.

Water Quality –

There was discussion regarding water quality information and monitoring. George explained that there is a "safety net" in place. If the bacterial numbers are high then the State Department of Health is informed. They can temporarily close the shellfish beds the same as with a spill. This would not affect the geo-mean, which would mean a more permanent closure of the shellfish beds.

Mailboxes –

The neighbors on the road adjacent to our building were requesting that mail boxes could be set up on the back part of the District's property. This would allow for a clear view on exiting the parking lot/road onto Hannegan. The area is currently blocked by mailboxes. George suggested that an agreement could be drafted giving permission for the boxes to be placed on our property.

Cornie Timmermans approved the request to have mailboxes installed on the back of the District's property along the roadway. George will draft the necessary legal agreements. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CCWF grants –

George explained that the District is in line to get a Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) grant from the Department of Ecology if funding goes that far. There is a proposed change to the distribution of Ecology's grant funds. There is a suggestion to take out a portion of funding and designate it for lakes. George explained to the Board that lake projects are already grant eligible and that it would not be in the interest of the state to carve off funds for various special interests.

Rod Visser moved that the District write a letter expressing concerns over the proposed changes to the Department of Ecology funding. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Animal Feeding Operations/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (AFO/CAFO) –

George explained the federal ruling on the AFO/CAFO lawsuit. The outcome was that only an actual discharge would put you into the process. There will be potential changes to the law regarding this decision. The Board decided to write a letter in support of the AFO/CAFO funding. The water quality problems have not gone away and the Legislators should not be confused by the court action.

Rod Visser moved that the District write a letter in support of AFO/CAFO program funding. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Interview –

George informed the Board that he received a second interview for the Director of Agriculture position. He was scheduled to meet with the Governor on the following Monday afternoon.

B. John Gillies.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) –

John reported that there are 15 EQIP contracts in the Northwest Area team.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) –

One project has been funded and there are four others lined up for funding. There is a lot of interest in the Purchase of Development Rights program.

Customer Service Toolkit (CST) –

Andrew Phay and the NRCS staff attended training on the new GIS features of the CST.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) –

John reported that the Planning commission meeting was scheduled for March 10th. There will be discussion regarding animal units. There is an interest in designating a limit of animals per acre for hobby farms on small acres.

C. Stu Trefry.

Commission Grant Review (CGR) –

Kristy McGill, Conservation Commission grants officer, came up and did our Commission Grants review on January 28, 2005. Stu reviewed the documents. There were limited concerns. He informed the Board that Whatcom Conservation District has very little problems and that the District is a model for others. The CGR was reviewed and signed by the Chair.

Legislative Matters –

The agency request bills are moving slowly. Stu gave the Board an update on activities during the current legislative session.

D. George Boggs.

National River Clean Up week –

As part of the National River Cleanup week the District got a bid to do blue tube removal from the banks of the Nooksack River. The Washington Wildlife Services (David Vinke) submitted a proposal for tube removal in the amount of \$535.

Rod Visser moved to accept the bid amount and sign the contract with David Vinke to do blue tube cleanup in the Nooksack River for \$535.00. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Internal Audit –

Dawn reminded the Board that it was time to do the Internal Audit of the books. Cornie and Rod said that they would be available. Dawn will contact them to schedule a time.

Associate Supervisor –

Since this is Bob's last meeting as a Supervisor, Rod and Cornie wanted to thank Bob for all of his hard work and appoint him as an Associate Supervisor.

Rod Visser moved to appoint Robert Barker as an Associate Supervisor on the Whatcom Conservation District Board. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Record of Board Actions.

05-17 Rod Visser moved that the minutes of the February 10, 2005 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

05-18 Cornie Timmermans moved to submit the following priority list of Dairy cost-share applications to the WA Conservation Commission: 1. Drue Dickison \$6,000 for a manure pump (tied) 1. Allan Huttema \$11,099.36 for sump pump, pipe and manure pump 3. Allan Van Hofwegen \$2,124 for sump pump and underground outlet 4. Aron Hovander \$6,000 for manure pump. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

05-19 Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the Financial Report. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

05-20

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- 05-22 Rod Visser moved to approve and sign the Intergovernmental Contract with the Washington Governmental Entity Pool. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-23 Rod Visser moved to approve and sign Interagency Agreement (IAA 05-17-04) with the Department of Agriculture to subcontract with NWIC to do water quality monitoring in the amount of \$6,000. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-24 Rod Visser moved to subcontract (contract number 05-13) with the Northwest Indian College to do water quality monitoring under Interagency Agreement (IAA 05-17-04) in the amount of \$6,000. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-25 Rod Visser moved to approve and sign the subcontracts with the Northwest Indian College in the amount of \$1,536 and Dorie Belisle in the amount of \$75,000 plus some match requirements for both parties under the Tenmile Phase III Grant (G0500076). Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-26 Rod Visser moved to sign the contract for janitorial services with Greg's Professional Cleaning Service in the amount of \$520 per month. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-27 Cornie Timmermans approved the request to have mailboxes installed on the back of the District's property along the roadway. George will draft the necessary legal agreements. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-28 Rod Visser moved that the District write a letter expressing concerns over the proposed changes to the Department of Ecology funding. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-29 Rod Visser moved that the District write a letter in support of AFO/CAFO program funding. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-30 Rod Visser moved to accept the bid amount and sign the contract with David Vinke to do blue tube cleanup in the Nooksack River for \$535.00. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 05-31 Rod Visser moved to appoint Robert Barker as an Associate Supervisor on the Whatcom Conservation District Board. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Rod Visser moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Dated: April 26, 2005

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant