

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 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 November 12, 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"/>	Rod Visser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cornelius Timmermans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Randy Kinley		

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		Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Robert Barker as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:05 p.m.

**IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

**Jerry Van Dellen moved that the minutes of the October 14, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**V. Financial Report.**

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

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report. There were none.

**Rod Visser moved to approve the Financial Report. Jerry Van Dellen 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:

Oct 2004 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12595</u>	through	<u>12634</u>	and totaling	<u>44,328.22</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>12635</u>	through	<u>12649</u>	and totaling	<u>18,597.87</u>
November 2004					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12650</u>	through	<u>12667</u>	and totaling	<u>12,848.51</u>

Payroll check numbers: 12668 through 12682 and totaling 18,574.18  
 Voucher (check) numbers 12683 through \_\_\_\_\_ and totaling 300.00  
**moved by Rod Visser. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**VI. Action Items.**

**A. WACD Annual Convention.**

George will be meeting on the CREP program at the convention on Monday. Harlan Kredit will receive the Secondary Teacher of the Year award. He will be attending the Monday awards luncheon. Bob Barker has been approached to run for the Conservation Commission Board. The west-side representative will be voted on at the convention. There was discussion regarding who may be able to attend. Cornie was going to check his schedule to see if he could make a day. Bas will attend. The Board discussed his ability to vote at the convention.

**Rod Visser moved to send Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor, to the WACD Annual Convention and give him a proxy vote from Whatcom Conservation District Board. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**B. Approval of Contracts.**

CREP –

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the administrative lead on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) joint program. The FSA County Committee approves all contracts. The current policy is that once FSA approves the Federal Contract and CREP Plan, George can sign for the District. The contract is then brought to the Board meeting for ratification. As a matter of course, the District has several CREP contracts to approve.

**Cornie Timmermans moved to ratify the list of CREP contracts. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

04-04-CR02: 04-13	Robert	Rutgers
04-04-CR02: 04-17	Glen & Lori	Carlson

CREP Cultural Resources Contract –

There is a new CREP applicant (Del Corral) that needs to have cultural resource assessments on their proposed project. The District sends out requests for bid to a list of certified archeologists. From those that respond the District selects the lowest bidder. The District enters into an agreement for the cultural resource assessment with the contractor. George presented 1 contract for approval by the Board.

**Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the list of Cultural Resource Assessment contracts. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

04-04-CRS02: 04-27	E Hemmi Rd	Alfred Reid Archeological Consulting
04-04-CRS02: 04-28	Lighthouse Mission	Equinox Archeological Consulting

Conservation Commission Cultural Resources Investigations Grant –

The intent of the grant is to remove the disincentive for landowners' to participate in non-point pollution prevention programs by defraying the cost of cultural resource investigations. The contract requires the proposed projects be ranked by the Board. George explained that the only non-CREP projects requiring Cultural Resource Assessments at this time were in California Creek. The three landowners actually make up one project. That being the case the Board agreed to rank them all as one project with three landowners listed sequentially with the same weight.

**Rod Visser moved to make the California Creek DID project the top priority for the Cultural Resources Investigation grant. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) –

WACD sent a WACD Dues survey regarding prioritizing funding activities with WACD Dues. There was no budget attached. Bob wanted us to ask about that. The Board reviewed and filled out the survey.

Dairy Federation CAO Meeting –

George attended the Dairy Federation meeting on the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) at the Semiahmoo Resort. Farm planning was discussed. George reviewed the various alternatives open for providing small farm planning services under the revised CAO. There was discussion regarding USDA wetland classification of wetlands. George discussed other topics of the Dairy Federation meeting.

WDFW Meeting –

Brian Williams a representative from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) met with Steve Seymour, Frank and George. Brian is working on developing a master plan for Skagit County on how to deal with Drainage Improvement District (DID) projects. In concept, watercourses would be classified for purposes of determining where riparian areas would be required as mitigation measures to protect and enhance fish resources. This would be on a sub-basin by sub-basin basis. He came to examine the California Creek DID project as an example.

Water Quality Monitoring Letter –

The Board read and reviewed the draft letter in response to the letter from Merle Jefferson from Lummi Natural Resources. The letter supports the tribe's doing water quality monitoring. However we are asking for investigative sampling to determine the sources of the pollution. All sources should be looked at not just dairies.

**Cornie Timmermans moved to approve sending a letter to Merle Jefferson in response to his water quality monitoring letter to the Dairy Federation. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Other –

Jerry Van Dellen asked about the letter that the Board received from Chris Woodward. George explained the concern and advised that the Board did not need to comment.

## **VII. Other Business.**

### **A. Long Range Plan.**

Bob started the planning process by expressing the three most important things.

- Assist landowners in applying BMPs to establish sustainable agricultural land use and other natural resource based industries.
- Collaborate with all Whatcom County, State and Federal stakeholders to achieve balanced use of water resources while assuring water quality and quantity.
- Educate the citizens of Whatcom County on the need for and value of natural resource conservation practices.

The other Board members agreed with Bob's three choices. The thought that water connects everything in the environment was expressed. There was discussion regarding BMPs. Just what does the Board think they are? George suggested that the District may wish to express preference for application of national field office technical practices where regulatory agencies are involved. While providing additional protection, state FOTGs are more onerous and put Washington State farmers at a competitive disadvantage. The District should take advantage of alternative technologies as they come along.

There was discussion regarding how to improve management. The goal is performance and better water quality. The District needs to enforce adherence to our dairy nutrient farm plans. The District should use water quality information to impress and potentially change actions in producers. This would include providing information on implementation by watershed to show a correlation to water quality testing. The District can send out postcard showing water quality results per watershed. It is not enough for the District to be planners; we need to engage in the implementation of practices to provide some follow through.

It was suggested that Bob, George and Dawn take the comments regarding the Long Range Plan and develop a draft for Board review that would be shared with all interested partners for comment.

**B. Other.**

Rod Visser attended the manure digester tour. The digester has been completed and is running. It should have manure in it soon.

There was discussion regarding to two Supervisor positions that may open in March 2005. Current supervisors are contemplating running again. The Board will also seek interest for these positions. The matter of our most recently elected Supervisors lack of attendance at the meetings was also discussed.

**VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**04-72 Jerry Van Dellen moved that the minutes of the October 14, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**04-73 Rod Visser moved to approve the Financial Report. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.**

**04-74**

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**moved by Rod Visser. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**04-75 Rod Visser moved to send Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor, to the WACD Annual Convention and give him a proxy vote from Whatcom Conservation District Board. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**04-76 Cornie Timmermans moved to ratify the list of CREP contracts. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

04-04-CR02: 04-13	Robert	Rutgers
04-04-CR02: 04-17	Glen & Lori	Carlson

**04-77 Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the list of Cultural Resource Assessment contracts. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

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		Consulting
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**04-78 Rod Visser moved to make the California Creek DID project the top priority for the Cultural Resources Investigation grant. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**04-79 Cornie Timmermans moved to approve sending a letter to Merle Jefferson in response to his water quality monitoring letter to the Dairy Federation. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**IX. Adjournment.**

**There being no further business before the meeting, Cornie Timmermans moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Dated: December 10, 2004

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Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant