

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2006**

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 September 13, 2006, at 12:15 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabina Gouran (by phone)	<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"/>	John Gillies, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Dick Yoder acting as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:15 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the August 9, 2006 Board meeting be approved as mailed. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

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

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

Ed Stone moved to approve the Financial Report. Sabina Gouran 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:

Aug 2006 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14356</u>	through	<u>14378</u>	and totaling	<u>24,383.98</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14379</u>	through	<u>14391</u>	and totaling	<u>16,724.75</u>
September 2006					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14392</u>	through	<u>14403</u>	and totaling	<u>23,817.32</u>

Payroll check numbers:	<u>14404</u>	through	<u>14415</u>	and totaling	<u>16,706.45</u>
Voucher (check) number	<u>14416</u>			and totaling	<u>100.00</u>

moved by Ed Stone. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

CREP Contracts –

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 plans. The current policy is that once FSA approves the Federal Contract and CREP plan the contract is then brought to the Board meeting for ratification. As per the current policy, the Board approved eleven contracts.

Maps of the projects were passed out for review.

Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Gene Bouma (06-04-CR01:06-04), Carol Del Corral (04-04-CR02:04-21), Emil DeWilde (06-04-CR01:06-19), Robert & Karen Eddy (06-04-CR01:06-03), Reiner Elenbaas (06-04-CR01:06-23), William & Diane Evans (06-04-CR01:06-22), Lynne Kelsey & Melissa Martin (06-04-CR01:06-20), Lighthouse Mission (04-04-CR021:04-26), Douglas Maddux (06-04-CR01:06-17), Patmar Farms (Dick Bedlington) (06-04-CR01:06-07), and Thomas & Anise Wouters (06-04-CR01:06-21). Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Livestock Cost-share –

George and Dawn Bekenyi gave some background as to the livestock cost-share. Livestock cost-share is 75% of actual project costs not to exceed \$25,000. The District currently has \$25,000 of livestock cost-share. The funds have been allocated to Lenssen Dairy LLC. The Lenssen's will not be able to use the funds before the October 31, 2006 deadline. Another producer, Rod Visser, has submitted a livestock cost-share application for a distribution system. After checking with the grants staff at the WA Conservation Commission it was determined that the Whatcom Conservation District Board could rescind the cost-share contract with the Lenssen Dairy LLC and approve the cost-share agreement with Rod Visser transferring the cost-share funds to Rod.

The Board agreed to rescind the livestock cost-share agreement with Lenssen Dairy LLC. A contract rescission agreement was signed by Lenssen Dairy LLC and brought to the Board for approval.

Ed Stone moved that the Conservation District approve and sign the Livestock Cost-share Rescission Agreement with Lenssen Dairy LLC. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board discussed the cost-share application submitted by Rod Visser for a distribution system. Dawn explained that the Commission said that the livestock cost-share contract would have the same deadline and that the project was to be similar to the Lenssen application. Rod is able to complete the task by the October 31, 2006 deadline. It was determined by the Board that other producers had ample opportunity to submit cost-share applications. There are currently no other livestock cost-share applications. District staff will continue to accept livestock cost-share applications in anticipation of possible further state funding. The Board approved the cost-share application for Rod Visser in the amount of \$25,000.

Ed Stone moved to approve the livestock cost-share application for Rod Visser for a waste distribution system in the amount of \$25,000. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Budget.

A revised budget was developed and submitted for Board approval. George reviewed the budget and proposed additional funds not outlined in the budget. George recommended that the Board rehire Sonya Schaller to work on CREP, since there appears to be enough funds and there is the workload.

Sabina Gouran moved to approve the budget. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sabina Gouran moved that the Whatcom Conservation District rehire Sonya Schaller to work on CREP. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. George Boggs.

Miscellaneous –

George spoke with the Board about a job opportunity that had presented itself at the Northwest Clean Air Agency. The names of the interviewees were published in the Bellingham Herald, even though the interviewees thought it was a confidential process. George explained his interest in the position because of his concern about global climate change.

Employment Manual Job Band Review –

George explained that there has not been an adjustment to the employee pay scale since 2003. There is also the need to review some of the job classification bands. We currently do not have an Engineer band and we need one. It was decided to set up a committee to review a salary and benefits survey and any additions/adjustments in bands as needed. Sabina agreed to be on the committee. George and Dawn will gather the information. It was suggested by Dick Yoder to ask Steve Jilk of the Public Utility District # of Whatcom County to serve on this committee.

Meetings –

George reviewed the upcoming meetings of interest with the Board.

The WA Conservation Commission tour and Board meeting is September 20 & 21 in Coupeville, WA.

Farming and the Environment's annual Vim Wright Stewardship award dinner is scheduled for September 23, 2006. The District received a letter from Fred Colvin and Lynn Bahrych encouraging them to participate in the event.

Ed Stone moved that the District participate with Farming and the Environment in the Vim Wright Stewardship award dinner for \$100. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2006.

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) NW Area meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2006 in Puyallup. Pierce Conservation District is the host this year. George asked the Board to think about any items that they would like to make a resolution to submit to the Area meeting. He reviewed some hot topics, such as mitigation banking and loss of farm land to mitigation banks for construction or developers. George suggested that the Board should identify a representative to attend the area meeting.

The Salmon Summit is scheduled for November 2, 2006. Sabina will attend the Salmon Summit.

Our insurance carrier, Washington Governmental Entity Pool (WGEP) is hosting a training session by Gordon Graham on Risk Management, Civil Liability for Public Operations and Customer Service on November 7 in Everett. Board members are invited to attend.

CCWF Applications –

The District is considering writing a couple Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) grant applications. George reviewed the grant ideas with the Board. The first one is a small farm outreach program. The District will partner with the local granges and FFA groups on education. The second grant application is work in stream projects in conjunction with CREP projects. The grant applications are due to the Department of Ecology on October 30.

CAO -

George reviewed the recent decision by the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board on Island County's Critical Areas Protections in Rural Lands. The issue is whether the Best Management Practices program adopted by Island County meets the Growth Management Act's (GMA) requirements for protection of the functions and values of critical areas in noncommercial agricultural zones. The Growth Management Hearings Board found that it does. This is noteworthy since Island County based their CAO on Whatcom County's.

Flood Control –

George spoke with Paula Cooper, Whatcom County River and Flood, they have a done the preliminary study on the gravel in the Nooksack River. Whatcom County does not think that the riverbed is rising, but they will keep watching it. There is no gravel extraction planned in the near future.

Nitrogen Deposition Workshop –

George attended the Nitrogen Deposition Workshop last week. He reviewed the phenomenon where nitrogen loading is occurring in higher elevations due to lowland activities. Nitrogen in the form of ammonia is the problem. John explained the ammonia and nitrogen volatilization and movement in the dairy nutrient system.

Background Checks –

Dick Yoder feels that all individuals involved in the District should have a background check. This would include the Board of Supervisors. George suggested that if the Board desired this could be a resolution for WACD. The resolution would make it mandatory to complete a background check prior to being approved as an appointed or elected official. The Board was not in consensus on this matter.

B. John Gillies, NRCS.

WA State Dept of Agriculture Dairy Inspector –

John was asked to sit on the team hiring the new Dairy Inspector. The committee chose Jason Penzer. He will start in October.

EQIP –

Joy Hawley and John are working on EQIP contracts.

Miscellaneous –

Dick Yoder informed the Board that there was a diesel spill in Ellensburg near the Washington Cattlemen's office. He expressed the frustration of Jack Field over the fact that it took 30 days to respond to the spill. It has been over two months since the spill and there doesn't appear to be any consequences over the incident. Dick asked about the response time for a petroleum spill as opposed to the quick response for a manure spill. Is there any way to encourage the EPA and Department of Ecology to have a faster response to petroleum spills? George expressed that it was difficult for the Board to weigh in on since it happened outside of our county.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

06-52 Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the August 9, 2006 Board meeting be approved as mailed. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

06-53 Ed Stone moved to approve the Financial Report. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

06-54

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06-59 Sabina Gouran moved that the Whatcom Conservation District rehire Sonya Schaller to work on CREP. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

06-60 Ed Stone moved that the District participate with Farming and the Environment in the Vim Wright Stewardship award dinner for \$100. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Ed Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 p.m. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Dated: October 16, 2006

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____