

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
September 8, 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 September 8, 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"/>	Jerry Van Dellen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cornelius Timmermans
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rod Visser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Jimerson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder		

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
	Stu Trefry, Conservation Commission		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:25 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Cornie Timmermans moved that the minutes of the July 28, 2005 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 July meeting.

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

George reviewed the staffing changes in NRCS and their potential likely impact to the Conservation District. There will be engineering needs that Chris is in a position to do. This would be a shift in his current activities from planning. Tom Slocum, Cluster Engineer, will provide requisite professional oversight.

Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the Financial Report. Dick Yoder 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:

July 05 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13380</u>	through	<u>13381</u>	and totaling	<u>5,030.89</u>
August 2005					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13382</u>	through	<u>13408</u>	and totaling	<u>41,696.25</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13409</u>	through	<u>13421</u>	and totaling	<u>17,879.01</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13422</u>	through	<u>13447</u>	and totaling	<u>29,112.18</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13448</u>	through	<u>13461</u>	and totaling	<u>18,121.58</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13462</u>			and totaling	<u>213.85</u>
September 2005					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13463</u>	through	<u>13477</u>	and totaling	<u>5,810.78</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13478</u>	through	<u>13491</u>	and totaling	<u>18,506.30</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13492</u>	through	<u>13493</u>	and totaling	<u>1,775.00</u>

moved by Cornie Timmermans. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

Work Study –

Interns can be placed in our office through the work-study contract agreement with the Whatcom Community College at a 75% reimbursement from the college. The District renewed the contract.

Cornie Timmermans authorized the Whatcom Conservation District to sign a work-study contract with the Whatcom Community College. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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 contracts. 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 five contracts presented as approved at the Farm Service Agency's August 2005 County Committee meeting.

Cornie Timmermans moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Fred Robson (04-04-CR02:04-22) and Alan Tarr (04-04-CR02:04-23). Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP Cultural Resources Contract –

There are four CREP applicants that need to have cultural resource assessments done on their proposed projects. The District sends out requests for bids 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. One contract for the four projects was presented to the Board for approval.

There was discussion regarding the need for Cultural Resources on CREP projects. What is an undertaking? Is planting trees an undertaking? There needs to be a reasonable answer. We are spending a lot of money and haven't found any artifacts or evidence of an archeological site. The Conservation Commission should ask the USDA Farm Service Agency to define an undertaking. Maybe an agency archeologist hired by the Conservation Commission is needed to address the issue. Stu Trefry stated that he would raise this issue to his boss.

Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contract with Drayton Archeological Research LLC (Garth Baldwin) for the Brady Mayson, John Robson,

Michele Savage and John Sand CREP projects in the amount of \$8,323.80. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP PIP Loan Close Out –

The CREP PIP Loan has been closed out. Final papers need to be signed. Dawn gave a background of the program. The CREP Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) Loan allowed landowners to get the full funding for the project before the entire project was completed and the final 40% Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) is paid by the Farm Service Agency. In some areas of the state CREP projects can be quite large or span several years, so the PIP loan would alleviate the cost burden on the landowner allowing the contractor to get paid. When the CREP project installation is completed then the Conservation Commission is paid back the PIP loan by the Farm Service Agency.

The Whatcom Conservation District is closing out the CREP PIP Loan due to lack of interest. We had three participants in the program, but due to the short turn around for payment between site prep and installation there has been no need for an advance on the PIP. No one has used the program since 2001. It can be reinitiated if interest returns.

Cornie Timmermans authorized the Chair to sign the CREP PIP Loan Close Out form. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MOA with Skagit CD –

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Skagit Conservation District allows for sharing the cluster Engineering Services, authorization of Skagit CD working in the Whatcom County portion of in the Samish River drainage and shared employees as needed. The MOA with Skagit Conservation District is due for renewal.

Rod Visser moved that the Whatcom Conservation District renew the MOA with the Skagit Conservation District for cluster Engineer services and inter-county work for another year. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Rod Visser –

Rod hosted the NRCS State Conservationist for a tour. Gus Hughbanks will be going to Washington DC for 90 days to do paperwork. Others on the tour included Rick Noble, Bruce Williams from NRCS and Whatcom County and WDFW representatives. The group went to the North County area to see the drainage issue, toured the methane digester and Rod's where they discussed the WSU nitrate in ground water study area.

Henry Bierlink is setting up another group, including the Health Department, which will tour the same areas in a few weeks.

B. George Boggs.

Department of Transportation –

George assisted Cornie by writing a letter to the Department of Transportation (WDOT). The WDOT is planning to widen the Guide Meridian. This will include putting up a barrier down the center of the road which will prevent Cornie from accessing his fields across the street. This will mean a 1 mile diversion of tractors and other equipment on the very busy road.

Bob Barker –

George explained that Bob was having a CT scan on his heart. He will keep the Board informed on the results.

Conservation Commission –

George is no longer on the CREP committee. Carolyn Kelly is the new co-chair of the CREP committee. Beaver issues are a big concern for CREP.

Beaver Trapping –

Sonya Schaller prepared a proposal for beaver trapping on the Forthun CREP project. The Board reviewed the proposal. The proposal projected \$200 per beaver for removal. There will be no costs if no beaver are removed.

Cornie Timmermans moved that the Whatcom Conservation District contract with David Vinke of Washington Wildlife Services for beaver removal not to exceed \$800. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was discussion regarding the need to look at a permanent solution to beaver issues on CREP projects. Beavers can make areas to hold water for retention during dry times of the year. George suggested that the issue regarding finding sustainable long term solutions to beaver issues would be brought up at the Conservation Commission’s next meeting.

Up Coming Events –

- Sept 19 - Raspberry Commission sponsored tour of the North County with the Department of Health to look at raspberry production areas
- Sept 21 – Georgia Basin/Puget Sound International Airshed Strategy Committee meeting
- Sept 22 – Livestock Advisory Committee meeting – George will attend
- Sept 26 – Lummi meeting regarding shellfish protection and manure plans. Chris and Chuck will attend.

Homeland Security Committee –

George is on the Homeland Security Agricultural Sub-committee. He discussed quarantining due to avian flu or other diseases and how that could economically impact the County. The subcommittee will be running a table-top exercise to test preparedness were Whatcom County to experience an outbreak of avian influenza.

Skagit Conservation District –

The District received an invitation to Skagit Conservation District annual awards banquet.

George informed the board that Betty Norton was stepping down from her position on the WACD Plant Materials Center (PMC) board.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

05-64 Cornie Timmermans moved that the minutes of the July 28, 2005 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

05-65 Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the Financial Report. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

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- 05-70 Cornie Timmermans authorized the Chair to sign the CREP PIP Loan Close Out form. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 05-71 Rod Visser moved that the Whatcom Conservation District renew the MOA with the Skagit Conservation District for cluster Engineer services and inter-county work for another year. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 05-72 Cornie Timmermans moved that the Whatcom Conservation District contract with David Vinke of Washington Wildlife Services for beaver removal not to exceed \$800. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Cornie Timmermans moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:46 p.m. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Dated: October 18, 2005

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant