

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
December 9, 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 December 9, 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | John Gillies, NRCS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant | | Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor |
| | Chuck Timblin, District Technician | | Henry Bierlink, WCAPC |

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.

Cornie Timmermans moved that the minutes of the November 12, 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. Cornie Timmermans 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:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Nov 2004 - balance | | | | | |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>12684</u> | through | <u>12696</u> | and totaling | <u>11,328.91</u> |
| Payroll check numbers: | <u>12697</u> | through | <u>12711</u> | and totaling | <u>18,615.13</u> |
| Voucher (check) numbers | 12712 | | | and totaling | 45.00 |

| December 2004 | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>12713</u> | through | <u>12769</u> | and totaling | <u>90,940.93</u> |
| Payroll check numbers: | <u>12770</u> | through | <u>12783</u> | and totaling | <u>17,718.54</u> |
| Voucher (check) numbers | <u>12784</u> | through | <u>12786</u> | and totaling | <u>316.76</u> |

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

VI. Action Items.

A. Farm Plan Approval.

The Lynn Thordarson small farm plan developed by N₃ was presented for Board approval.

Cornie Timmermans moved to approve and sign the small farm plan for Lynn Thordarson. Rod Visser 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. The Board approved three contracts presented as approved at the Farm Service Agency's November 2004 County Committee meeting as per the current policy.

Cornie Timmermans moved to ratify the list of CREP contracts. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 04-04-CR02: 04-04 | Roy | Hadaway |
| 04-04-CR02: 04-19 | Sally | Verry |
| 04-04-CR02: 04-25 | Sunrise Baptist Church | Gene Mulder |

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Bob Barker –

Bob was elected to the Washington State Conservation Commission Board at the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Annual Convention in Tacoma. Bob has decided that he will not seek reappointment to the Whatcom Conservation District. He will stay on as an Associate Supervisor. He desires to see more people involved on the Conservation District Board.

Since Bob's position as a Supervisor on the Whatcom Conservation District expires in March, he has been looking for candidates for his replacement. Bob spoke with Todd Jones. Todd is currently very busy with other endeavors. However he is interested in remaining an Associate Supervisor and will look at a Supervisor position in a year or two.

Bob has also talked with others regarding possible candidates.

Bob reported that he sent a letter to Randy Kinley regarding his failure to attend Board meetings, as per the Board's direction, following the last meeting. There has been no response to the letter. There was discussion regarding the options open to the Board to rectify the "absent" supervisor dilemma. It was decided to ask Randy and resign and send a letter to the Conservation Commission requesting that they vacate the position.

Rod Visser moved that the Board ask Randy Kinley to resign and the District will send a letter to the Conservation Commission requesting that they vacate Randy Kinley's

position due to lack of participation. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Bas Scholten –

Bas reported on activities at the WACD Convention. The WACD Plant Materials Center is still not making money. They have to compensate customers for the Western Red cedar and Douglas fir mortality. The PMC's sales strategy was reviewed and passed by the WACD membership. The Board discussed the problems with the trees that the PMC had experienced. The issue was that the tree were sold by the nursery and then died, so the PMC needs to replace trees for failed plantings.

Representatives from the Conservation Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) attended the WACD Convention. Reports for the state agencies were given during a breakfast meeting. Ron Schulz, the policy advisor for the Governor, was the speaker during one luncheon.

Bas attended the CREP committee meeting. George was the facilitator of this committee. Several resolutions were discussed and recommendations were passed on to the main session.

During the business meeting the WACD membership elected Bob Barker as the Westside Representative to the Conservation Commission Board. There was also discussion and action on 36 resolutions. Bas explained how the resolutions were drafted and the process that they go through prior to coming before the main body at the WACD Business meeting. One resolution that stood out as the most controversial was the request from King Conservation District to lobby the legislature to open the RCW to increase the assessment maximum from \$5 per parcel to \$10. After much discussion the resolution failed.

Harlan Kredit and his wife attended the awards luncheon. Craig Nelson, Okanogan Conservation District and awards chair person, presented Harlan with the Teacher of the Year award. It was nice.

B. George Boggs.

WACD Convention –

John Larson has been hired as the WACD Executive Director. John Larson is the current Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) President. Since George was WADE Vice-President, he will now assume the role of WADE President. George will be WADE President through June 2005 when elections will take place at the annual training session. As WADE President George has a vote at the WACD Officers and Directors (O & D) meetings. He will accompany Bob to the WACD O & D and Conservation Commission meetings. Another duty to be addressed is organizing the WADE annual training.

George facilitated the CREP breakout session. Along with discussion of the assigned resolutions, the committee developed a recommendation for the Conservation Commission proposing additional practices to be eligible under CREP II. These practices would include grass filter strips, hedgerows and wetlands.

CAO –

Whatcom County is going through a review of the new Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). It appears to be pretty much the same for farmers. If a farmer has a farm plan there would be relaxed buffer widths. The proposed buffer without a farm plan has increased from the last CAO. George explained that Watershed Improvement Districts (WID) may have a roll in protecting critical areas. Landowners would conduct a self-assessment and address any discovered problems. This would be subject to review if the WID saw impacts to critical areas. Small farm plans would be addressed through a list of prescribed practices.

Puget Sound Shared Strategy –

George and John attended a meeting of the Puget Sound Shared Strategy. The group is preparing a strategy for keeping farmers farming and implementing salmon friendly practices. It was soliciting input for the final product. Bob, George and John will attend the conference late January when the strategy will be unveiled to the public.

Water Quality –

USGS representatives will be coming up to the Portage Bay Shellfish District meeting on January 12, 2005. There was discussion regarding water quality and farm plans and the correlation. A study showing the use of antibiotics to do DNA screening in fecal coliform testing was discussed. The study showed an 80% certainty in identification of the source of fecal using antibiotics. It was talked about seeking funding from USGS to do a similar source id study here. There was also discussion after seeking more water quality sampling to clear up pollution source that the District would want to review our nutrient management plans and how the plans relate to water quality. This way the District would be able to offer justification for our planning.

C. Green Labeling.

Chuck Timblin and Henry Bierlink, Whatcom County Ag Preservation Committee (WCAPC), joined the meeting.

Chuck Timblin –

Chuck was tasked to investigate the “Salmon Safe” label. Chuck gave a history of the program. Stewardship Partners is a non-profit organization out of Seattle. They work with private organizations to certify farms as “Salmon Safe.” This provides the farms with a label and favorable marketing. There are currently 30,000 acres certified most of which are in Oregon. The wine industry is the major participant in the Salmon Safe label. The benefit of the label is that it provides a marketing incentive which according to the group provides 15-20% increase in their sales.

Henry Bierlink –

Henry spoke regarding a grant received to do a feasibility study that will determine cost effectiveness and potential profitability of producing gourmet butters, specialty cheeses and dairy based probiotics (such as drinkable yogurt.) The study will guide Whatcom County dairy producers as they choose which value-added product or products to manufacture, and will address financial risks and opportunities, and marketing in a highly competitive environment.

Henry also reported that WSU is turning the Mt. Vernon Research Station into an Ag Innovation Center. The purpose of the center is to research marketing potential for Western Washington ag products.

There was discussion regarding products and marketing. A potential certified farm label could offer premiums. The reward for being a good environmental steward needs to be economically viable.

D. John Gillies.

EQIP –

John reported that they had to reconcile all of their EQIP contracts. A new questionnaire worksheet for the upcoming EQIP sign-up will make changes in small producer eligibility.

Flood –

John passed around the latest radar map showing a rain pattern heading towards Washington. Temperatures are expected to rise which will raise the snow level in the mountains. This along with additional rain should cause flooding.

Winter Application Workshop –

Chuck Timblin, Chris Clark and John attended a workshop and tour regarding winter manure application. The matter was brought into question by the South West Washington offices. These offices would not approve Dairy Nutrient Plans (DNP) without 6 months of manure storage. In Whatcom County there are a few limited cases where winter application of manure solids is written into a DNP with very strict guidelines outlined.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

04-80 Cornie Timmermans moved that the minutes of the November 12, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-81 Rod Visser moved to approve the Financial Report. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

04-82

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04-84 Cornie Timmermans moved to ratify the list of CREP contracts. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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| 04-04-CR02: 04-25 | Sunrise Baptist Church | Gene Mulder |

04-85 Rod Visser moved that the Board ask Randy Kinley to resign and the District will send a letter to the Conservation Commission requesting that they vacate Randy Kinley's position due to lack of participation. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Cornie Timmermans moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 p.m. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Dated: January 19, 2005

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant