

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2011**

I. Time and Place of Meeting.

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) was held at the Ag Service Center, 6975 Hannegan Rd, Lynden, Washington on January 5, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Joe Heller	Terry Lenssen
Larry Davis	Ed Stone
Dick Yoder	

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director	Alex Hall, NRCS staff
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant	

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Joe Heller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the December 8, 2010 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

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

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

Larry Davis 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:

Dec 2010 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>18271</u>	through	<u>18299</u>	and totaling	<u>21,365.94</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>18300</u>	through	<u>18312</u>	and totaling	<u>27,440.85</u>
January 2011					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>18313</u>	through	<u>18321</u>	and totaling	<u>17,641.93</u>

Payroll check numbers: 18322 through 18334 and totaling 28,123.54
Moved by Larry Davis. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Review Partnership Proposal Draft Policy.

George gave a background of the request for partnership from the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTFP). He then reviewed the draft policy and thought behind the methodology for setting the criteria for reviewing proposals. George reviewed the draft criteria. Larry suggested that the policy should separate questions to prospective applicants from direction to the Board on review of proposals. An application form was discussed as a possibility. It was also suggested that applicants would complete and submit a written proposal and give a presentation to the Board to answer any questions. The Board will continue to review the draft policy and submit comments for the next Board meeting.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Joe Heller –

Joe received a letter from Nicole Berg-Tobin thanking the District for George's help with the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Annual Meeting planning committee.

Joe reported that there was an article in the Bellingham Herald regarding George receiving a "Legacy of Conservation Award" from NRCS at the WACD annual meeting in Cle Elum.

Larry Davis –

Larry will be attending the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual meeting in Nashville, TN. He will speak on the "Power to the People" and Capricorn CREP resolution(s) (as the opportunity arises.)

Terry Lenssen –

Terry attended a meeting with Rep. Vincent Buys and Sen. Doug Ericksen. He shared with the Board their legislative committee assignments.

Dick Yoder –

Dick gave highlights of the latest Cattlemen's Association meeting, including an update about the grey wolf issue.

Ed Stone –

Ed is contemplating signing up for the Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Business Planning Course offered by WSU Extension. It is a six-week class that will teach participants how to write a business plan, develop an innovative marketing concept and strategy, and how to evaluate the production and economic returns to their business for the different crops and livestock they choose to produce.

B. Alex Hall, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – All EQIP contract payments were completed as of the new year. There are 45-47 new applications for 2011. Alex reviewed the breakdown in farm types for applicants. The regional ranking meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2011. They are unsure how many projects will get funded. They have not been told how much has been allocated to the area this year. Usually 8-12 contracts get funded per year. Alex also reported that they are getting pressure to clean up older contracts. He discussed issues with older contracts getting installed and expiration deadlines.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – There was an extension of the sign-up deadline for CSP applications to January 21, 2011. There is only one application so far.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) – The sign-up deadline for applications for WHIP is January 7, 2011. There are two fish habitat projects, in-stream crossing and removal of fish passage barrier.

C. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Puget Sound Initiative – This is a funding request that the NRCS West Area Team is putting together. It will target funding for treating water quality issues in Puget Sound. Nichole Embertson, PhD is drafting some new air quality practices for cost-share. Other items being discussed for inclusion are: retrofitting manure lagoons to new NRCS standards, and raising the current cost-share cap to accommodate the expense of steel tanks and concrete uprights. There was Board discussion regarding economics and water quality issues. Staff sent out postcards to producers seeking interest in receiving the proposed funding to address manure lagoon concerns.

Ed Strachila – Ed Strachila has just completed his third, four-year term on the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Oversight Committee (COC). According to the rules he will have to step down from the committee for a term before being able to run again. George reported that Ed has been on the COC when the CREP program was started. He challenged staff with questions which resulted in better projects and a program that leads the State. Over the years became a staunch supporter of the program.

Dick Yoder moved to present Ed Strachila an Award of Appreciation for his years of service with the FSA COC and his support of our joint programs. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

George reported that an appreciation luncheon was scheduled for January 19, 2011. The Farm Service Agency will be presenting Ed with a plaque. Potential forms of the award from the District were discussed. Staff were directed to purchase a suitable award to present to Ed.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting Per Diem Overage Approval – Larry was selected to attend the NACD annual meeting to present our resolution. This year's NACD Annual Meeting is being held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN, where the lodging rates are higher than the state's established per diem rates. As with the WACD Annual Meeting, the WA Conservation Commission advised that these lodging rates are fully grant reimbursable as long as they are approved in advance by the board and an "Exceeding Maximum Per Diem Form" is filled out prior to the travel.

Dick Yoder moved to authorize Larry Davis attend the NACD annual meeting and stay at Gaylord Opryland Hotel for lodging rates in excess of the state per diem rate as per the Exceeding Maximum Per Diem Form. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed. (Larry abstained from the vote.)

Cool Climate Flood and Warm Climate Flood – George shared a diagram on flooding to show the flooding effects of increases in temperature.

River Corridor – Bill Bonsen is working with Len Honcoop on a sample cross section of the Nooksack River. George is drafting a rough scope of work for the project.

Well Permit – George gave the Board an update on the well permit issue for soil sampling. The issue is being brought to the Legislature by the Dairy Federation.

Birch Bay EPA Grant – The hiring committee will interview seven applicants for the Trusted Advisor consultant next Wednesday and Thursday.

Meeting – The County Agricultural Advisory Committee subcommittee and Shellfish Protection Committees are holding a meeting on January 19, 2011, with residents of the Brown and Malloy Road Drainages to discuss the consistently high levels of fecal coliform bacteria pollution of the ten stations sampled along California Creek over the past four years.

Resolutions – George gave an update on the resolutions that the Board brought to WACD annual meeting. Wade Troutman said that state FSA could do the pilot CREP resolution now if they chose to do so. It will not need to go further. The “Power to the People” resolution should be vetted through NRCS and other agencies. Larry will try to speak to it at the NACD annual meeting.

Chris Clark – George informed the Board that Chris Clark passed his engineering exam. The Board passed on their congratulations to Chris.

Animal Feeding Operation/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (AFO/CAFO) meeting – George reported on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 regional meeting (Idaho, Washington and Oregon) to discuss developments in the national AFO/CAFO general permit. Chris, Nichole and George attended to offer policy and technical input. Nationally, states were to provide technical specifications to EPA for use in the permit draft. Only three states have not provided this information to EPA. Washington is one of them. George reviewed the livestock permit process in Oregon.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) – George reviewed the latest on the Governor’s proposed budget and keeping the Conservation Commission autonomous. Larry reviewed the bulleted information provided by Stu Trefry for discussion with our Legislators.

Swift Creek – The Board asked George for an update on Swift Creek. George reported that there was no movement on water rights changes to withdrawal. Sonya Schaller is meeting with the Department of Ecology, Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Whatcom County regarding concerns over degrading wetlands on South Pass Rd.

Webinars – A webinar on the new Internal Assessment-Schedule 22, which takes the place of the Commission District Operations Review, internal audit checklist, and Commission grant review process, is on January 7, 2011.

A webinar to discuss the upcoming Legislative Session, Governor’s Budget and Proposal to Merge the WSCC, is on January 10, 2011.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

11-01 Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the December 8, 2010 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

11-02 Larry Davis 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.

11-03

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

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11-04 Dick Yoder moved to present Ed Strachila an Award of Appreciation for his years of service with the FSA COC and his support of our joint programs. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

11-05 Dick Yoder moved to authorize Larry Davis attend the NACD annual meeting and stay at Gaylord Opryland Hotel for lodging rates in excess of the state per diem rate as per the Exceeding Maximum Per Diem Form. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed. (Larry abstained from the vote.)

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Terry Lenssen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Dated: February 23, 2011

Approved: _____
Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant