

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2010**

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 June 9, 2010, 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
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant	Frank Corey, WCD

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Dick Yoder, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Joe Heller moved that the minutes of the May 5, 2010 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

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

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

Joe Heller moved to approve the Financial Report. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Joe commended Dawn with managing the grant budgets and utilizing all of the available funds.

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:

May 2010 - balance				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17724</u>	through	<u>17753</u>	and totaling <u>25,517.05</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>17754</u>	through	<u>17768</u>	and totaling <u>28,132.18</u>

June 2010				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17769</u>	through	<u>17780</u>	and totaling <u>11,866.89</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>17781</u>	through	<u>17794</u>	and totaling <u>29,127.99</u>

Moved by Joe Heller. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Climate Change Presentation.

Frank Corey gave a presentation on climate change. He stated that it is not a “green” issue, but is something that is happening. We should be prepared to anticipate the impacts. This includes adapting to climate change with our planning processes and implementation of programs.

Frank shared some background on climate change and the “green house” gases effect. He showed graphs showing seasonal variations as plants absorb and let off carbon dioxide through summer and winter. There is a steady increase in global temperature. Projections showing future trends were shared. They showed a steady increase in temperature and decrease in snow pack creating higher incidents of winter flooding and lower stream and river flows in summer. A mapping model also showed the projected sea level changes and flooding in Birch Bay. Frank encouraged being proactive in mitigation and adaptation when planning and doing projects. George brought the issue local by highlighting the increase in flooding and the unsettled weather patterns that impact farmers. Keep in mind when designing and implementing the storm water project portion of the EPA Birch Bay Project Grant.

Larry mentioned that he read an article on weather news, which defined the difference between “weather” and “climate.” Dick wondered about how you could model 10-20 years out. Trending used in the models shows relationships of real and established levels as they should increase in comparison to existing trends.

B. Election of District Officers.

Election of District Officers –

Chair –

Larry Davis nominated Joe Heller as Chair. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There were no further nominations for Chair. The Board voted on the nomination. Joe Heller was unanimously elected as Chair.

Vice-Chair –

Larry Davis nominated Terry Lenssen as Vice-Chair. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There were no further nominations for Vice-Chair. The Board voted on the nomination. Terry Lenssen was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair.

Secretary/Treasurer –

Ed Stone nominated Larry Davis as Secretary/Treasurer. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There were no further nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. The Board voted on the nomination. Larry Davis was unanimously elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

C. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Livestock Nutrient Management Plan (LNMP) Approval and Certification –

There was one Livestock Nutrient Management Plan update submitted for Board approval.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Livestock Nutrient Management Plan update for Van Berkum and Sons Dairy, LLC (Harold Van Berkum). Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was one Livestock Nutrient Management Plan submitted for Board recertification.

Terry Lenssen moved to recertify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan, with the update, for Van Berkum and Sons Dairy, LLC (Harold Van Berkum) reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Approval of Contracts.

Washington State Conservation Commission –

Grant addendums for CREP and Implementation for Fiscal Year 2011 were reviewed. They are similar to Fiscal Year 2010. Initial Payment requests and Basic Allocation from Implementation funds are allowed again this year. The Board decided to seek these options.

Ed Stone moved to approve the WSCC Grant scope of work addendums for the CREP and Implementation Grants for FY 2011, including the Basic Allocation and initial payment requests. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Scientist Classification of Pay scale.

Nichole Embertson has been successful in obtaining a scientific study grant. When hiring Nichole it was negotiated that she would be compensated commensurate with her education, experience and training as a scientist so long as she pursued and obtained grants for that job description. She obtained an EPA grant and so, it is time for the District to follow through with its commitment. The Board amended the Classification D1 in the current pay scale to include a "scientist" job description, as well as Executive Director and Engineer. Nichole's EPA grant is scheduled to start on July 1, 2010. George recommended and the Board concurred to reclassify Nichole to a D1 Step 1 effective July 1, 2010.

Ed Stone moved to reclassify Nichole Embertson's pay scale to D1 Step 1, effective July 1, 2010, in line with her additional duties. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. WACD Dues Worksheet.

Dawn shared the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Dues worksheet calculations with the Board. It was discussed that when the Plant Materials Center (PMC) was being considered it was stated that it could provide a source of funds for WACD operations. Dues would be reduced if not eliminated. The PMC has been running a significant profit for the past two years and has accumulated nearly one million dollars in reserves. There was a question about why Districts are continuing to pay dues at the same levels. It was explained that if a District is not current on their dues it is not allowed to vote at the WACD Annual Convention. The Board decided to send a letter to WACD asking about funds in the WACD savings account and anticipated dues levels.

The WACD Annual Convention will be in Suncadia this year and starting the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

G. Enduris.

Enduris sent out a survey to complete for the annual insurance renewal. Replacement costs for the building and building contents was discussed. The renewal was reviewed and approved to submit.

H. Parking Lot Repairs.

Dawn reviewed the three bids received for the parking lot crack seal and striping. Blacktop Inc. was the lowest qualified bidder.

Ed Stone move to accept the bid and hire Blacktop, Inc. to do the parking lot crack seal and striping in the amount of \$1,057.88. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

I. Other.

Recognition - The Mt. Baker FFA Forestry Team won the Washington State FFA Forestry Career Development Event (CDE) for the fourth year in a row. They are eligible to go to the national competition. Last year they placed 6 out of 40 teams nationally. The Board decided to recognize the Mt. Baker FFA Forestry Team for its accomplishment through a citation and \$100 award. This award could be used to offset some of the costs of travel to the national competition.

Larry Davis moved to present the Mt. Baker FFA Forestry Team a certificate of recognition and give them a \$100 cash award for winning the state competition 4 years in a row. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Joe Heller –

Joe and Wayne Chaudiere attended the Forester conference in La Conner. There were over 100 participants. EPA is looking at reclassifying water quality in forestry activities. This will be a significant impact.

Joe will attend the foothills sub-area plan public meeting in Kendall on June 10.

Terry Lenssen –

The next step for the River Corridor Management Committee is to get the plan from Canada and figure out how to approach the tribes about the process. On June 10, a Western Washington University professor will give the committee a presentation on climate change in the Nooksack River Corridor.

Dick Yoder –

Dick is still meeting with the Ag Advisory Committee on water quality and ag. It is a slow process. Dick informed that Board that there are not any meetings scheduled until the fall.

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

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) –

The Lynden Field Office requested funding for three additional EQIP projects, and received funding for two, plus one additional organic project. There are 11 contracts this year for approximately \$750,000 to date for the 2010 EQIP. Those not funded will be deferred to the next sign-up.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) –

One project was funded under the special allowance outside of the regular sign-up. Alex worked with Frank Corey and Steve Seymour, WDFW, on a project to replace an in-stream crossing with a bridge and restore riparian habitat.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) –

The new CSP sign-up is under way. They may get more people this year. Alex reviewed the program for the Board. There are five applications to date and the deadline is June 25, 2010.

C. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Herbicide –

George informed the Board that the use of aminopyralid to control chickweed and other weeds may have some significant problems. WSU Extension convened a meeting where they presented

injured tomato and pepper plants. Other sensitive plants are grown in Whatcom County. Grass from fields to which this chemical were applied is fed to livestock. This is not a problem for the livestock. It is a problem where manure from these animals is used on fields/plots where sensitive crops are grown. Composting does not breakdown the active ingredient. It takes over one year for bacteria to break it down.

Soil Sampling –

We were contacted by an Ecology staff person who expressed concern that the groundwater depth assessment and soil sampling guidance posted on our website for dairy producers was contrary to the Water Well Construction Act and interpreting administrative codes. Subsequent conversations between our staff, him, and the State Well Construction Coordinator did not allay those concerns. Others who felt their activities would be similarly constrained called upon the highest level of management to change the policy. While we were told that can get a research exemption from the Department of Ecology, this doesn't help the farmers who want to sample their fields. Staff are working on this issue.

Shuksan Golf Course –

George and Frank Corey went to look at the Shuksan Golf Course again. Beaver have repopulated the adjoining land. We are assisting the golf course to get the necessary permits to maintain the area. .

River Corridor –

The River Corridor committee is making some small progress. The County Council supports the concept.

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District (WID) –

George gave an update on the planning process with the North Lynden WID. It looks like the Commissioners are at loggerheads with WDFW over mitigation requirements.

Lummi Letter to EPA -

The Board discussed the letter that Lummi Nation sent to the Environmental Protection Agency. George gave some background on the dairy program in Whatcom County and other mitigating factors. EPA was in Whatcom County this past month and we did not receive any notice that there had been any serious problems. It was decided to wait and see what happens with the issue and address it as needed at the next Board meeting.

WACD Budget Request –

George gave the Board a review of the Budget Request sent to WACD for the next biennium.

FY 2011 Budget –

The Board was sent a draft of the 2010-2011 District Budget with their minutes. They reviewed it and approved it.

Larry Davis moved to approve the 2010-2011 District Budget as presented. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ag Advisory Committee –

Dick discussed the Ag Advisory meeting. Dean Martin was let go from Whatcom County. Dick is disappointed to see him gone from the committee. He was an asset to the group. Steve Hood will be coming to talk to the group on July 1st regarding water quality issues. The next meeting will be in the fall (October).

July Meeting –

Joe thanked Dick for his time and energy when he served as Chair.

There were some conflicts in schedule so the July Board meeting was changed to July 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

10-47 Joe Heller moved that the minutes of the May 5, 2010 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10-48 Joe Heller moved to approve the Financial Report. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

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- 10-56 Ed Stone moved to reclassify Nichole Embertson's pay scale to D1 Step 1, effective July 1, 2010, in line with her additional duties. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 10-57 Ed Stone move to accept the bid and hire Blacktop, Inc. to do the parking lot crack seal and striping in the amount of \$1,057.88. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 10-58 Larry Davis moved to present the Mt. Baker FFA Forestry Team a certificate of recognition and give them a \$100 cash award for winning the state competition 4 years in a row. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 10-59 Larry Davis moved to approve the 2010-2011 District Budget as presented. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Terry Lenssen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Dated: July 26, 2010

Approved: _____

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant