

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2012**

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 March 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Joe Heller, Chair	Terry Lenssen, Vice Chair
Larry Davis	Ed Stone

Also in attendance were:

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

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Joe Heller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the February 8, 2012 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 February meeting.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented the financial report. There were no questions.

Ed Stone moved to approve the Financial Report. Larry Davis 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:

Feb 2012 - balance				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19263</u>	through	<u>19278</u>	and totaling <u>11,689.07</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>19279</u>	through	<u>19292</u>	and totaling <u>27,778.93</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19293</u>	through	<u>19295</u>	and totaling <u>1,155.99</u>
March 2012				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>19296</u>	through	<u>19316</u>	and totaling <u>22,989.52</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>19317</u>	through	<u>19330</u>	and totaling <u>27,891.97</u>

Moved by Ed Stone. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP) Approval –

There were two Dairy Nutrient Management Plan submitted for Board approval. George reviewed the plans. The first one was a small 24 cow dairy with no collection system or lagoon. They are seeking approval and certification. George noted that he certification checklist was not present in the papers given to the board for review and approval. He ascertained from the planner that it had been completed and all applicable elements in place. She apologized for the oversight. George asked that the board authorize him to execute the certification on the Board's behalf once the certification checklist was provided.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for:

- **Leegwater Farm LLC (new plan).**

and authorized George Boggs to sign the certification for Leegwater Farm with a completed checklist. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The second farm is a plan update that uses the new farm plan template and addresses digestate.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for:

- **Fresh Breeze Organic (Shawn and Clarissa Langley) (plan update).**

Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Contracts –

There was a CREP contract that was installed in 2002 that is signed up for a re-enrollment. The project meets the stand requirements and there is no maintenance needed.

Ed Stone moved to approve the CREP extension for Jim Bouker. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Cultural Resources Assessment –

The Terrell Creek Dam project needs a cultural resources assessment. Bids were received. Rosario Archeology was the lowest bidder and was awarded the contract.

Terry Lenssen moved to ratify the Cultural Resources Assessment contract with Rosario Archeology LLC for the Terrell Creek dam project not to exceed \$1,500.00. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) scholarship –

A scholarship application to attend the annual WADE training was completed. Nichole Embertson, Andrew Phay and Dawn Bekenyi are providing administration and track coordination for this year's WADE training. The maximum allowed for the scholarship request is \$900. That will cover two full registrations.

Ed Stone moved to submit the WADE training scholarship and send Nichole Embertson, Andrew Phay and Dawn Bekenyi to the training. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis –

Larry reported that the Washington State Conservation Commission received his application for the Whatcom Conservation District Supervisor appointed position. Last time there was some confusion as to what happened to his application, so he wanted to make sure that they received it early.

Larry joined Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District Manager, and Dave Vogel, Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Executive Director, for a meeting with Congressman Rick Larson. Larry gave an overview of the meeting. There was discussion of the CREP and TSP programs and the importance of funding these programs on the federal level.

Northwest Local Work Group – The Northwest Local Working Group met last Wednesday. They are almost done with the ranking, but there is more work to do on hold downs, practice lifespans and special allocations. A follow-up webinar is scheduled for April 10, 2012, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Meetings –

As WACD Area Director, Larry has scheduled his next board meeting to attend for one of the northwest area conservation districts.

Larry attended the WACD legislative days. The meetings that he attended were positive.

Larry is involved in selecting a new logo for WACD, along with Dave Vogel and Deb Gregory. WACD is requesting design submittals from high school students. They are shooting for the end of April as the deadline for logo submittals.

At the last National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Policy Task Force teleconference there was discussion regarding the need to work on the NACD feedback loop. There needs to be protocol for getting word back to states about activities relating to implementation of resolutions.

Ed Stone –

Ed asked about the district supervisor election turnout. Dawn shared the numbers. Over 500 people voted in person and there were 900 mail-in votes. George talked about the election observers that were present to watch the election process. Dawn will go through the observer training and meet with the Whatcom County Auditor's office regarding their election process.

Ed expressed that he enjoyed his time on the Board. The Board and staff have been great to work with.

Joe Heller –

Joe attended the WACD legislative days with Larry Davis and George.

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

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – Staff are very busy planning. They need to have contracts signed and turned in by April 20, 2012. Bill Bonsen and Chris Clark have been very helpful in this workload again.

EQIP Landscape Initiative – The initial process is to do a farmstead audit, which is just a plan of what a producer needs. The landscape initiative is an internal evaluation of the equipment needed to see if the producer is eligible. At this point there is no funding for applications for on the ground installation.

The first round of EQIP sign-ups deadline has passed. The second round sign-up deadline is March 30, 2012. Funding is uncertain at this point for those projects.

Local Work Group – Alex reported that most of the proposals brought forth from Whatcom were accepted by the Local Working Group. They need to work on the details. It has been great working with Larry Davis on this process. There is good follow-up.

Puget Sound Initiative – NRCS submitted a proposal for funding for the Puget Sound Initiative. There was discussion regarding the potential for this proposal to get funded. There was discussion regarding what a program could look like. Projects that show a salmon benefit would be funded. George shared his insights into the Puget Sound Initiative and the application.

C. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Annual Plan of Work – George passed out last year's annual plan of work in preparation for the 2012-13 Annual Plan of Work. The Board was asked to review it between now and the April meeting. We will then send it to stakeholders for review and feedback. The annual plan will be approved at the May meeting to fit in with the Conservation Commission's deadlines. It was suggested that the Report of Accomplishments information be included relative to the goals set out in the plan.

Pollution Control Action Team (PCAT) – The agency heads meeting was rescheduled to March 28, 2012. George revisited our letter to the Department of Ecology regarding key elements for working with Whatcom Conservation District and our livestock farm planning. The board reaffirmed that these key elements still hold true. Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) reaffirmed that we will provide people options, but we can only work within our current funding and staffing limits. WCD will continue with the dairy program.

Livestock Grant – George reviewed staffing and funding. Chris is working on the TSP doing engineering and Nichole has the Applied Risk Management (ARM) project, which leaves only Chuck to do farm planning. There was discussion regarding hiring another farm planner. The Board decided to run a job announcement and see if we can find a suitable planner. Staff will draft a budget for a planner.

Rates and Charges Bill – George reported that the Rates and Charges Bill passed the legislature. It is up to the Governor to sign it.

Litigation – The attorney requested some documents. George provided the information to him.

Habitat Mitigation Bank – The proposal for a habitat mitigation bank went before the Whatcom County Council at their March 13, 2012 meeting.

Meetings –

EPA Region 10 Administrator Dennis McLerran, sent George an invitation to participate in the Agricultural Producers Forum in Ellensburg on March 23rd. The Regional Administrator wanted to hear from representatives what their issues they had with EPA. Other agencies invited included Mark Clark (Conservation Commission), Ted Sturdevant (Ecy), Roylene Rides-at-the-Door (NRCS); and Tom Eaton (EPA Wash Operations Director)

George, Emily and Chuck gave a presentation to the League of Women Voters regarding the Whatcom Conservation District and our programs. It was well received. Jayne Uerling stated that she heard positive things about the presentation, which she had attended.

Birch Bay Project – The social marketing surveys were sent out. The project is progressing.

Mitigation Banking Conference – There is a habitat mitigation banking conference in Sacramento, CA that George wants to attend in May. It will cost approximately \$1,000 for the conference. George will save expenses by staying and eating with family.

Larry Davis moved to send George to the Habitat Mitigation Banking Conference in Sacramento, CA for approximately \$1,000. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Internal Audit – Dawn mentioned that it was time to do our Schedule 22 assessment. She asked for two supervisors to assist her. Larry and either Terry or Joe said that they would.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

12-15 Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the February 8, 2012 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-16 Ed Stone moved to approve the Financial Report. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

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12-18 Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for:

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and authorized George Boggs to sign the certification for Leegwater Farm with a completed checklist. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-19 Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for:

- Fresh Breeze Organic (Shawn and Clarissa Langley) (plan update).

Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-20 Ed Stone moved to approve the CREP extension for Jim Bouker. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-21 Terry Lenssen moved to ratify the Cultural Resources Assessment contract with Rosario Archeology LLC for the Terrell Creek dam project not to exceed \$1,500.00. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-22 Ed Stone moved to submit the WADE training scholarship and send Nichole Embertson, Andrew Phay and Dawn Bekenyi to the training. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12-23 Larry Davis moved to send George to the Habitat Mitigation Banking Conference in Sacramento, CA for approximately \$1,000. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Dated: April 30, 2012

Approved: _____
Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant