

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2013**

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 February 13, 2013, 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, Treasurer	Larry Helm
Dick Yoder	

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director	Alex Hall, NRCS staff
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant	Tony Sunseri, NRCS
Stu Trefry, WA Conservation Commission, Northwest Regional Manager	

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.

Larry Helm moved that the minutes of the January 10, 2013 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 January meeting.

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

Larry Helm 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:

Jan 2013 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>20162</u>	through	<u>20178</u>	and totaling	<u>15,131.96</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>20179</u>	through	<u>20192</u>	and totaling	<u>28,580.16</u>
February 2013					

Voucher (check) numbers 20193 through 20216 and totaling 33,851.99
Payroll check numbers: 20217 through 20230 and totaling 28,464.49
Moved by Larry Helm. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

Janitorial Contract –

The Board reviewed the bids that were submitted. Dawn checked references for the three lowest responsible bidders. Those contacted were very happy with their janitorial services. The Board decided to go with the lowest responsible bidder, Golden Eagle Cleaning Company.

Larry Davis moved to enter into a contract with Golden Eagle Cleaning Company for janitorial services in the amount of \$525 per month to begin on March 1, 2013. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Supervisor Election.

Dawn reported that Dick Yoder was the only one that submitted a nomination for the election by the candidate filing deadline. Dawn reviewed the automatic Re-election Checklist and the WAC provision for the incumbent to be automatically reelected.

Larry Helm moved to re-elect Richard Yoder, the incumbent, through WAC 135.110.370. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Inter-local Agreement with Whatcom County.

Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) two year contract for \$15,000.00 to do riparian restoration planning work.

Larry Helm moved to approve and sign the Inter-local Agreement with Whatcom County FCZD for \$15,000.00 for a two year contract to do riparian restoration planning work. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Amendment to the Puget Sound Caucus ILA.

The inter-local agreement for the Puget Sound Caucus was amended. The Board authorized signature of the revised inter-local agreement. George explained that the Puget Sound Caucus is made up of the 12 Puget Sound Conservation Districts. The PSC will meet on February 25, 2013.

Larry Davis moved to approve the proposed changes in the Puget Sound Caucus Inter-local Agreement. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Larry Davis moved to authorize George Boggs, or a Supervisor that will attend the Puget Sound Caucus meeting, to sign the Puget Sound Caucus Inter-local Agreement. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Farm Stewardship Signage.

The proposal is to partner with Whatcom County Parks and Pioneer Meadows Montessori School (Ferndale) to hold a 5 Kilometer fun run. The fun run goal is to raise \$1,000 for educational signs. The project will improve the livestock interaction and education area at Hovander Homestead Park, as well as impart a greater understanding and appreciation for livestock husbandry in children, parents and visitors to Hovander Homestead Park.

After some discussion, the Board decided to table the matter until later in the meeting..

F. NACD Dues.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Dues – There was discussion about paying dues to the national association. The request is 1% of a District's budget. Dawn reported that 1% of the discretionary budget is about \$670.

Larry Helm moved to approve payment of the 2013 National Association of Conservation District dues in the amount of \$670. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

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

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – The second round EQIP sign-up deadline is February 15, 2013. There are 85 applications to date. Alex reviewed the different contract types that submitted applications. Funds are extremely limited this year.

NRCS is getting ready for the federal sequestration in March. NRCS is moving forward with contracts for the funds that they currently have available. If additional funds become available applications will have been ranked and contracting can proceed as soon as possible.

Alex reported on changes with the energy audit contracts. One significant change is that field application pumps can be included with the farm headquarters in audits.

Pacific Salmon Habitat Improvement Partnership (PSHIP) – Two million dollars of salmon recovery funds are available in the Puget Sound area. Minimum buffer widths have increased this round. It may not work very well for dairies with the added buffer requirements.

National Water Quality Initiative – This is a program that targets funds in selected watersheds. Additional funds may become available.

Cost-share Programs – Alex met with the local Department of Ecology regarding setting up a cost-share program similar to EQIP. He provided information on how NRCS runs EQIP.

Staff is busy doing program payments and contract modifications.

B. Tony Sunseri, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Meetings – There is a Partners meeting in Mt. Vernon on February 19 regarding the PSHIP.

The Local Work Group meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2013. The location has not been narrowed down yet. Larry Davis and Tony are looking at either Port Townsend or Coupeville.

Background – Tony introduced himself to the Board and gave a brief background. He is from Oregon. His latest office posting was in California.

C. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis –

Power to the People Resolution – Larry reported that he is sending the resolution on to the Acting Chief of NRCS. Hopefully, NRCS can make adjustments to allow conversion from diesel pumps to electric. Whatcom County would be happy to be a pilot area for this. This could tie in with the energy audits. Larry met with Dave Vogel, WACD Executive Director, and Tony Sunseri regarding who can do the energy audits.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting – Larry and George attended the NACD annual meeting in San Antonio, TX. George got the national award for 2013 Conservation Professional. Larry is still involved with the NACD Policy Task Force and the NACD Education and Stewardship Committee.

Larry Helm –

Water Quality – The Whatcom County Cattlemen met with Doug Allen and Mak Kaufman from the Department of Ecology last month. The meeting became controversial. They are planning another meeting in March with the new Ecology water quality inspectors.

Wolf Issue – Wes Kentch and Larry Helm will be on KGMI radio on Saturday, February 16 to discuss wolves in Whatcom County and their impact.

Terry Lenssen –

Terry reported that a local dairyman was approached by EPA to be inspected. The dairyman asked EPA to come back because it was too short notice and he had previously scheduled activities that could not be deferred.. EPA came back with a warrant and someone from the Sheriff's Department. The failure to provide reasonable notice so that the producer could accommodate the inspector when there were no obvious exigent circumstances incensed local Dairy Federation and dairy farmers.

Joe Heller –

Joe received notice from NRCS that Corina Cheever and Emily Hirsch completed their NRCS Planning courses and are now certified basic conservation planners.

D. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Grant Applications – George reported on a couple of funding opportunities to provide good water quality and manure application advice to farmers.

Skagit Conservation District is applying for a Firewise Grant that will include Whatcom. In preparation, Wayne Chaudiere will be attending two-day training.

George applied for a Green Infrastructure Process Grant. We should find out later this month the ranking.

George assisted NRCS in identifying two watersheds in Whatcom County for potential funding through the National Water Quality Initiative.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) Meeting – WSCC will hold a meeting with all Conservation Districts on Incentive-Based Programs on February 20, 2013, in Ellensburg. There was discussion about which Supervisors would attend.

Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer Task Force – George gave background on the Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer Task Force. The group has not met in 5 years. It was formed in the 1970's to address high nitrates in ground water. With the recent concerns over nitrates in ground water in Yakima, the group is being brought back. EPA can intervene in water quality issues, if a local process is not in place.

The Department of Ecology is working on a water right from the Nooksack River through Lynden to hook up water providers for residents over the Abbotsford-Sumas aquifer to deliver potable water, not ground water. They are currently reviewing shifting rights for outlying areas to accommodate a surface withdrawal.

Agricultural activities in Canada are contributing to the high nitrates in the ground water in the aquifer. In the past, Canada was reluctant to do any enforcement of water quality issues. Poultry manure is a big issue. The aquifer flows north to south. Nitrate counts are high by the time the water gets to the US. A Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) is being considered for the area.

George shared an interim Riparian Buffer Recommendation matrix for streams in the PSHIP program. The table originated out of the Federal caucus to the Ag, Fish & Water process. It was never adopted. It may not reflect local priorities. The technical team worked within watersheds to moderate impacts.

Whatcom County Parks and Pioneer Meadows Montessori School – The Board revisited the proposal for the District to partner with WC Parks and Pioneer Meadows Montessori School on a 5K fun run to raise funds for a model farm project.

Dick Yoder moved to partner with Whatcom County Parks and Pioneer Meadows Montessori School on the 5K Fun Run Project. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Whatcom Integration Team (WIT) – Larry Helm voiced his concern that the WIT is replacing the WRIA 1 County Water Planning Group. The WRIA 1 group has not met for 4 years. George explained that the Puget Sound Partnership wants a single local entity to look to for prioritizing grant proposals to recover Puget Sound. This includes Salmon Recovery, Shellfish Protection, and water quality activities. WIT is NOT prioritizing. Rather, it is formulating sending recommendations to the Joint Board that was created out of the WRIA 1 process as the policy and decision making entity. This is being challenged by certain members of the Planning Group. George gave a background of the groups history, process and the Conservation District's role in the past and currently.

E. Stu Trefry, Washington State Conservation Commission.

Stu reviewed the Good Governance Checklist and Schedule 22 that accompanies the annual financial report to the state Auditor's office. The forms should be completed in March and April and are due in May. Big things that the Commission looks at are if the District partners with other agencies and if they engage on the federal and state level, not just local level, on resource concerns.

Stu reported that Mike Johnson, Pacific & Grays Harbor Conservation District Manager passed away.

The Commission is working on a cost-share assistance policy. Comments are due March 11, 2013.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

13-7 Larry Helm moved that the minutes of the January 10, 2013 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

13-8 Larry Helm 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.

13-9

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- 13-10 Larry Davis moved to enter into a contract with Golden Eagle Cleaning Company for janitorial services in the amount of \$525 per month to begin on March 1, 2013. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 13-11 Larry Helm moved to re-elect Richard Yoder, the incumbent, through WAC 135.110.370. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 13-12 Larry Helm moved to approve and sign the Inter-local Agreement with Whatcom County FCZD for \$15,000.00 for a two year contract to do riparian restoration planning work. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 13-13 Larry Davis moved to approve the proposed changes in the Puget Sound Caucus Inter-local Agreement. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 13-14 Larry Davis moved to authorize George Boggs, or a Supervisor that will attend the Puget Sound Caucus meeting, to sign the Puget Sound Caucus Inter-local Agreement. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 13-15 Larry Helm moved to approve payment of the 2013 National Association of Conservation District dues in the amount of \$670. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 13-16 Dick Yoder moved to partner with Whatcom County Parks and Pioneer Meadows Montessori School on the 5K Fun Run Project. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Terry Lenssen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Dated: June 7, 2013

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____