

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
August 8, 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 August 8, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Attendance and Quorum.**

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

Joe Heller, Chair	Larry Davis, Treasurer
Larry Helm	Dick Yoder

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant
Kara Kaelber, Franklin CD	

**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 July 11, 2013 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**V. Financial Report.**

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

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented 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:

July 2013 - balance				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>20661</u>	through	<u>20696</u>	and totaling <u>93,831.19</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>20697</u>	through	<u>20711</u>	and totaling <u>29,865.80</u>
August 2013				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>20712</u>	through	<u>20730</u>	and totaling <u>33,700.40</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>20732</u>	through	<u>20746</u>	and totaling <u>29,803.02</u>

**Moved by Larry Davis. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## VI. Action Items.

### A. Approval of Contracts.

#### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) –

On April of 2013, Acme Properties LLC purchased several parcels in the Deming/Acme area that are enrolled in CREP. Three of these projects are still in the 5-year, state funded maintenance period. Three State Reimbursement Contracts for maintenance were submitted for Board approval.

**Larry Helm moved to ratify the CREP maintenance contracts for:**

- **Acme Properties, LLC – Gates CREP Project (08-04-CR:09-28)**
- **Acme Properties, LLC – Guerrero CREP Project (08-04-CR:09-28)**
- **Acme Properties, LLC – Gates CREP Project (08-04-CR:09-28).**

**Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

#### Washington State Department of Ag (WSDA) Lagoon Assessment –

In May 2013, the Board approved the contract with the Department of Ag to do assessments on 4-6 manure storage lagoons to assess their integrity and test the seepage rate of water. George explained that there are costs involved for the producers participating in this project. It was decided to give Chris Clark authority to negotiate with 3-5 cooperators subject to the limitations and scope of work in our WSDA agreement. A simple agreement will be drafted and Joe Heller was given authority to sign the agreements for the negotiated fee on behalf of the Whatcom Conservation District based on actual costs and consistent with WSDA guidelines.

**Larry Helm moved to authorize Chris Clark to negotiate with 3-5 cooperators for compensation to participate in the lagoon assessment project giving Joe Heller, Chair, authority to sign the agreements for the negotiated fee on behalf of the Whatcom Conservation District based on actual costs and consistent with WSDA limitations and the scope of work in our agreement. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

There was discussion about potential enforcement agency response to the lagoon assessment study.

#### Interlocal Agreement with WSU Extension –

George reviewed the draft Inter-local Agreement with WSU Extension to do Energy Audit Assessments for \$7,000.

### B. Kara Kaelber, Franklin Conservation District.

Kara gave a presentation on Franklin Conservation District's Wheat Week Program. The program involves a one hour a day class for one week for 4th-5th graders. The students are given five lessons Monday – Friday. The Wheat Week Program is sponsored by the Washington State Grain Commission. It is geared towards classroom science and they review water, soils, watersheds, energy and systems. The program teaches the children how to conserve natural resources and understand from where their food comes. 22 Conservation Districts currently provide the program to schools in their Districts. The program has been vetted with EALRS (Essential Academic Learning Requirements) and is in tune with today's schools education needs. Children are tested at the 5th grade level in science. Kara explained that most schools use science teaching kits, which are national. The Wheat Week program offers local science to students. Kara hires professional teachers to teach the program. The students are tested on the program and the teachers are evaluated following the class. The funding comes from Conservation Districts and the Washington Grain Commission. Last year they funded 95 weeks and 7,927 students participated in the program.

Water on Wheels and Salmon in the Classroom are a couple of other programs that Kara's team offers. They also do teacher workshops.

There is some limited funding available through a grant from Franklin CD to do the educational program in Whatcom County. The Board expressed interest in the program.

**Larry Davis authorized the Chair to execute an Inter-local Agreement with Franklin Conservation District to do education programs in Whatcom County. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **VII. Other Business.**

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

Alex was unable to attend the meeting, but provided a report for George to share with the Board.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – They were able to fund an additional contract under regular EQIP for a commercial dairy. These were additional funds that other areas in the state were unable to utilize.

Pacific Salmon Habitat Improvement Partnership (PSHIP) – They have obligated 7 contracts totaling \$1,004,513.00. The primary focus of these contracts is salmon habitat restoration; no animal waste practices were eligible. Practices in these contracts include opening fish passage barriers, riparian plantings, log jams, and wetland restoration/enhancement. There was a great partnership between NRCS, CD (Conservation District), NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) and private landowners. There is anticipation of another sign-up next year.

NWQI – The two priority watersheds in Washington State selected for the NWQI (Northwest Water Quality Initiative) are Fishtrap Creek and Wisner Lake Creek (Nooksack River). There is approximately \$400,000 available.

They are in the process of planning and contracting this initiative. They currently have four high quality applications (18 applications total) that are being funded.

The main focus of these applications is the decommissioning and renovation of waste storage facilities to bring operations waste handling systems up to current NRCS standards. The obligation deadline is August 30, 2013.

### **B. Action Items.**

#### Cost-share Prioritization –

George gave a presentation on cost-share project prioritization. He reviewed the background of providing cost-share. Legally state governmental agencies can provide cost-share because of the public benefit provided.

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) has directed Conservation Districts to prioritize their top two cost-share projects for funding. George explained that he met with the District's Livestock team and they came up with some recommendations for prioritization. He shared their comments with the Board. In addition he shared other prioritization factors. The Whatcom County Water Quality Initiative's recommendations were reviewed. George reviewed the history of the Pollution Control Action Team, now called the Whatcom Water Quality Initiative. Its focus areas are Bertrand, Kamm, Fishtrap Creeks and priority of lower Dakota Creek. Other considerations reviewed were using a logic scoring/optimization ecological ranking tool.

The economic impact to those that won't take cost-share funds was brought up by Board members. There was discussion regarding how to best use the limited cost-share funds.

Larry Davis would like to fund projects that provide the best bang for the buck. The District should work with people that we have on the list. We would like to make a clear and simple cost-share program.

The Board directed George and staff to develop a process of how to run the cost-share program. Staff will develop a process to develop and rank cost-share projects. George will share a copy of his power point with the Board of Supervisors for comments that he will share with staff to develop a prioritization scheme.

The WS Conservation Commission stated that initial prioritization is to be done on projects entered into the CPDS (Conservation Practice Data System) on or before July 1, 2013. There are currently eight people eligible for cost-share based upon their project entry date on our list, seeking \$350,000.

George reviewed staff's number one priority. It is for a manure pond liner and pumps. The particular producer has been on the funding list for the longest time and is ready to proceed. It is urgent that the Board consider as the construction season will end soon.

**Larry Helm moved to seek funding for the Whatcom Conservation District's number one priority, Roger Blok, for \$50,000 for a manure lagoon liner and pumps based upon his history for need and his readiness to proceed. Staff is directed to work on a priority scheme for the number two project. Staff will call the others on the list to see if they are interested and ready to proceed. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### **C. Supervisor Reports.**

Joe Heller –

WSCC - Larry Davis has stated that he will run for the Washington State Conservation Commission Board west region seat to be vacated by Fred Colvin. Dean Longrie, Clark Conservation District, has also stated that he will run for this position.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) – Wendy Parr, Skagit Conservation District Supervisor, will run for the WACD Treasurer position.

The NW Area meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2013 and will be in Jefferson County. If there are any resolutions that the Board would like to present they should have ready for the September meeting to bring to the Area meeting.

Meetings – Joe will attend the 2021 Strategy meeting and the WSCC September Board meeting.

Joe attended the Skagit Samish River tour put on by the Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland. The tour discussed beaver and maintenance issues. Mark Clark and Ron Shulz, WSCC, and a representative from the Governor's office were also on the tour.

Larry Davis –

WACD – Larry will make three visits in September as an Area Director to other Conservation Districts; King, Clallam San Juan Island.

Larry mentioned that Congress is in recess. It was suggested that a letter be written sharing how we leverage funds to put projects in the field.

Dave Vogel, WACD Executive Director, will work with Monte Marti, former WACD Treasurer, on the WACD dues structure history and how the categories were selected.

### **VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**13-60 Larry Helm moved that the minutes of the July 11, 2013 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**13-61 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.**

**13-62**

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**13-63 Larry Helm moved to ratify the CREP maintenance contracts for:**

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- Acme Properties, LLC – Gates CREP Project (08-04-CR:09-28).

**Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**13-64 Larry Helm moved to authorize Chris Clark to negotiate with 3-5 cooperators for compensation to participate in the lagoon assessment project giving Joe Heller, Chair, authority to sign the agreements for the negotiated fee on behalf of the Whatcom Conservation District based on actual costs and consistent with WSDA limitations and the scope of work in our agreement. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**14-65 Larry Davis authorized the Chair to execute an Inter-local Agreement with Franklin Conservation District to do education programs in Whatcom County. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**14-66 Larry Helm moved to seek funding for the Whatcom Conservation District's number one priority, Roger Blok, for \$50,000 for a manure lagoon liner and pumps based upon his history for need and his readiness to proceed. Staff is directed to work on a priority scheme for the number two project. Staff will call the others on the list to see if they are interested and ready to proceed. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **IX. Adjournment.**

**There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Helm moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Dated: September 20, 2013

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Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_