

WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2014

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 9, 2014, 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
Dick Yoder

Terry Lenssen, Vice-Chair
Larry Helm

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant
Ed Blok, Ag District Coalition

Alex Hall, NRCS staff
Randy Honcoop, Ag District Coalition

III. Meeting Called to Order.

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

IV. Public Comment (written or in-person).

Whatcom Clean Water Program (WCWP) – Andrea Hood, WCWP Coordinator Washington State Department of Health, submitted some comments regarding the Whatcom Clean Water Program's progress. Contrary to what had been unartfully characterized in the previous minutes, there were actually a lot of things were happening. Andrea reported that Ecology inspectors have focused on Bertrand Creek watershed. They are contacting landowners via phone or door hangers. They had completed 40+ site visits, with only 8 landowners denying or limiting access to property. She also shared water quality data for the target watershed.

The Board recognized the need for the public to have an opportunity to make comment whether in person or through other media. While as a matter of practice all visitors are able to register comment, they felt it important to set this as a standing agenda item.

Larry Helm moved to set agenda item number one for public comments with the understanding that generally up to 5 minutes would be allotted per comment or as time allows per Chair discretion for administrative reasons. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Larry Helm moved that the minutes of the December 12, 2013 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Financial Report.

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

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

Larry Helm 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 and EFTs are approved for payment:

Dec 2013 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>21112</u>	through	<u>21122</u>	and totaling	<u>15,180.33</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>21123</u>	through	<u>21138</u>	and totaling	<u>29,854.73</u>
January 2014					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>21139</u>	through	<u>21168</u>	and totaling	<u>35,923.03</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>21169</u>	through	<u>21182</u>	and totaling	<u>28,847.32</u>

Moved by Larry Helm. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Conservation Farm Plan Approval –

Chuck Timblin completed an inventory and farm plan for 5 Elements Farm (Michael & Deborah DeGolyer). It fulfilled the requisite elements for that type of plan. Staff recommended Board approval.

Terry Lensen moved to approve the Critical Areas Ordinance Conservation Farm Plan for:

- **5 Elements Farm – Michael & Deborah DeGolyer.**

Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Other Business.

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

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – Alex reported that there were 13 EQIP applications. Applications deferred from last year were cancelled if they did not respond to the letter sent by the NRCS. There will be further application opportunities.

Alex reported that ranking and contracting will be significantly different this year. He outlined some of the proposed changes and the contracting ramifications.

Energy – There is going to be an energy initiative, but there will be some changes this year. In the past the audit has been a headquarters audit. Now they will need to do an audit for the surrounding acreage as well.

EQIP Contract Administration – Alex reported that they are down 35 practices from the previous year. Cooperators are making progress towards completing practices as scheduled. Producers that receive federal cost-share will now need to get a Dun & Bradstreet (DUNS-Data Universal Numbering System) number and register in the System for Award Management (sam.gov) used by the federal government for payment tracking. NRCS will assist with this process.

Alex reported that Roylene Rides at the Door was scheduled to be in Mt. Vernon on January 22 to meet with NRCS staff. He will check and see if the meeting is open to partner agencies.

B. Ag District Coalition.

Randy Honcoop and Ed Blok met with the Board regarding the proposed Ag District Coalition (ADC), seeking District support for the effort. They read off a list of their current members, which includes mostly farmers. The goal is to form legal units where absent that are formed along subbasin that can coalesce into a Joint Authority speak for the farmers in their area on water-related issues. These units could be formed under the Irrigation Districts enabling statute. The ADC sought the District's endorsement of their initiative. The Board was supportive of the concept of a locally led organization along watershed basins to work towards resolving long-standing water quality and quantity issues. However, members were reluctant to go so far as endorse a particular pathway. There were already districts such as diking and drainage improvement in existence. They needed to be respected and harmonized.

Larry Davis moved that the Whatcom Conservation District Board endorse the concept of forming a single legal entity which could represent farmers' collective interests relative to water quality and quantity. Terry Lenssen seconded motion. The motion passed.

C. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Helm –

Larry attended the Whatcom County Ag Advisory Meeting. The County is going to send out a Right to Farm mailing to all Whatcom County residents.

Dick Yoder –

There was discussion regarding current developments with the wolf issue and cattlemen.

Terry Lenssen –

Terry attended the Dairy Federation meeting with Representatives Buys and Overstreet and Senator Ericksen. There was discussion regarding water rights issues.

WSU and Werkhovens are working on a phosphorus removal cone system. They reported to be able to remove 70% of phosphorus in manure for sale.

Joe Heller –

Joe will re-apply to the Washington State Conservation Commission for the appointed position on the Whatcom Conservation District Board.

Larry Davis –

Larry sent a state-wide email thanking all Supervisors for electing him to represent them on the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSSC) Board.

Larry stepped down as a NW Area representative on the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Board. Don Hatler of Clallam CD has indicated his interest to serve out the rest of Larry's term.

Larry will also step away from Chairing the NRCS Northwest Local Work Group (LWG). NRCS appears to be utilizing a different model for ranking. He may or may not Chair one more meeting. There was discussion regarding the LWG directions and NRCS's use of tools in ranking cost-share applications.

D. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Green Infrastructure – The County is receptive to the District conducting a green infrastructure workshop for community members. If funding can be secured, this would probably take place in the first quarter of 2015.

Meetings – Jay Gordon, Washington State Dairy Federation; Fred Likkel; Daryl VanderHaak and George met with Randy Kinley and Allan Chapman, Lummi Nation. They discussed the potential of discussions with the Board of the North Lynden WID over matters of shared concern. These could include water quality (nutrients/pathogens), water quantity (too little and too much) and farmland protection. George will see if Ray Ledgerwood, WSCC, can facilitate the meeting. George explained that this could be a way to demonstrate the efficacy of the ADC initiative.

Long Range Planning – George gave an update on the long range planning process and how we are progressing. Mary Duma was impressed with the District Supervisors and staff and the engagement into the planning process.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) – George reported that Whatcom will host the WSCC meeting and tour in September 2014, with more details to follow as they become available.

IX. Record of Board Actions.

14-1 Larry Helm moved to set agenda item number one for public comments with the understanding that generally up to 5 minutes would be allotted per comment or as time allows per Chair discretion for administrative reasons. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-2 Larry Helm moved that the minutes of the December 12, 2013 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-3 Larry Helm 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.

14-4

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Moved by Larry Helm. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-5 Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Critical Areas Ordinance Conservation Farm Plan for:

- 5 Elements Farm – Michael & Deborah DeGolyer.

Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-6 Larry Davis moved that the Whatcom Conservation District Board endorse the concept of forming a single legal entity which could represent farmers’ collective interests relative to water quality and quantity. Terry Lenssen seconded motion. The motion passed.

X. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Helm moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Dated: February 24, 2014

Approved: _____

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant