

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
March 13, 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 March 13, 2014, 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	Chuck Timblin, WCD
Rick Noble, NRCS	Tony Sunseri, NRCS

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 February 13, 2014 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 February 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:

Feb 2014 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>21262</u>	through	<u>21274</u>	and totaling	<u>4,018.06</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>21275</u>	through	<u>21289</u>	and totaling	<u>29,469.20</u>
March 2014					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>21290</u>	through	<u>21311</u>	and totaling	<u>21,626.35</u>

Payroll check numbers: 21312 through 21325 and totaling 29,262.84

Moved by Larry Davis. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Other Business.

A. Rick Noble, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Rick Noble and Tony Sunseri attended the meeting. Rick Noble gave a comprehensive overview of the farm bill status and potential for future and new conservation program participation. Rick and Tony expressed appreciation for the long-term partnership between NRCS and Whatcom Conservation District staff at the Lynden Field Office. The District reflected the sentiments.

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 JNK Llama Farm (Niki and Jeff Kuklenski). It fulfilled the requisite elements for that type of plan. Staff recommended Board approval.

Larry Davis moved to approve the Critical Areas Ordinance Conservation Farm Plan for:

- **JNK Llama Farm – Niki and Jeff Kuklenski.**

Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Contracts.

Janitorial Contract –

There was discussion to renew for another year the janitorial contract with Golden Eagle Cleaning Company. The contract amount is the same as this year. Golden Eagle Cleaning is doing good work. The Board felt that the amount was appropriate for the level of services provided in return.

Dick Yoder moved to renew the contract with Golden Eagle Cleaning Company for janitorial services at the same terms of \$525 per month for another year. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Other Business.

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

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – NRCS staff are still taking applications. They have 11 applicants. Alex reviewed the type of operations that have applied.

National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) – NRCS has officially announced Wisner Lake Creek/Nooksack River and Fishtrap Creek as participating watersheds in the NWQI. There are three applications to date.

B. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis –

Larry is serving on the bylaws subcommittee for the Washington Conservation Society.

Larry provided editing suggestions to the WACD Technical Work Group draft paper. WACD is looking creating an annual tribal partnership award. Larry is chairing a subcommittee of the WACD Tribal Outreach Task Force to develop and recommend criteria for the award.

Terry Lenssen –

Terry was officially selected as the Western Washington ex-officio member on the Washington State Dairy Federation board of directors.

There was discussion regarding robotic milkers. A couple of dairies in the county have them or are getting them.

Larry Helm –

Larry reported on the committee meetings that he attended this past month, including the County Ag Advisory Committee and Water Resources Committee.

The price of cows is the highest that it has been in two years.

Joe Heller –

Joe sent in his Appointed Supervisor application to the Washington State Conservation Commission for consideration. Larry Davis indicated that to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, a regional State Conservation Commission member other than him would conduct the interview with Joe.

C. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Green Infrastructure – George suggested that it would perhaps be more prudent to obtain broader community support for the GI Planning process before contracting to bring training to our County. The Board concurred and encouraged him to do this at the same time as engaging folks to comment on a revised long range plan of work.

Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) – At the behest of Jay Gordon, Ray Ledgerwood met personally with most of the North Lynden Watershed Irrigation District (WID) Board members to see if they would be interested in a CRM process. George described that this was about stakeholders sitting down to collaboratively solve natural resource problems such as water quality, quantity, habitat and farmland protection.

Meetings –

George will give a presentation on the Whatcom Conservation District programs and water quality to the League of Women Voters on March 15, 2014.

The Department of Ecology will hold the first meeting of the Agricultural Water Quality Advisory Committee in Lacey. Tribes, WACD and environmental groups in addition to agricultural industries were invited to attend.

D. Observations in the Field.

Cover Crop Signs – The Whatcom Conservation District installed signs advertising the benefits of farms and cover crop around the County. The signs have been well received.

Observations in the Field – George asked Chuck to attend the Board meeting to discuss the concerns brought up Terry regarding comments Chuck may have made at the Farm Friends meeting. Chuck identified four problems which he supported with graphs and photos: #1 Fecal coliform counts are rising; #2 Shellfish beds have either been closed or are threatened with closure; #3 In response to these problems WSDA and Ecology have increased regulation; #4 Not all dairy producers are using manure application setbacks or doing Application Risk Managements (ARM) assessments – two practices that he feels could help reduce fecal coliform counts significantly.

E. Plant Sale Pre-report.

Emily prepared a pre-plant sale report for the Board. There was a large increase in pre-orders with a significant increase in very large pre-orders.

F. Strategic Planning.

George reviewed staff comments on the strategic planning that were sent to the Board for review. Larry Davis passed out a handout of his comments for review. Joe Heller pointed out that community outreach is an important facet that is not currently being met by the District. There

needs to be more self-promotion. There was discussion regarding services that are or can be offered to urban areas.

Educator –

George informed the Board that there was a potential for match funding for an educator with Whatcom County.

Larry Helm moved to approve an education/outreach communication person match opportunity for a maximum of \$35,000 per agency for a year. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) Training.

The 2014 WADE Training registration form was passed out to the Board.

IX. Record of Board Actions.

14-18 Larry Helm moved that the minutes of the February 13, 2014 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-19 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.

14-20

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14-21 Larry Davis moved to approve the Critical Areas Ordinance Conservation Farm Plan for:
• **JNK Llama Farm – Niki and Jeff Kuklenski.**
Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-22 Dick Yoder moved to renew the contract with Golden Eagle Cleaning Company for janitorial services at the same terms of \$525 per month for another year. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

14-23 Larry Helm moved to approve an education/outreach communication person match opportunity for a maximum of \$35,000 per agency for a year. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Dated: May 1, 2014

Approved: _____

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant