

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2015**

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 8, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Joe Heller, Chair	Larry Helm, Vice-Chair
Larry Davis, Treasurer	Dan Heeringa
Dick Yoder	

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director	Alex Hall, NRCS staff
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant	Shana Joy, WSCC

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).

Krista Kenner provided written input regarding the description of the Department of Ecology presentation as presented in the November 13, 2014 meeting minutes.

Larry Davis moved to amend the November 13, 2014 meeting minutes to reflect the input provided by Krista Kenner regarding the Department of Ecology's presentation. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

In light of the corrections provided, there was Board discussion about how detailed meeting minutes needed to be. The Board directs Dawn to be sure to capture specific actions of the Board.

Larry Helm moved to direct Dawn to provide a summary of presentations, not the details, but to provide a detailed report of discussions leading to supervisor decisions. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the December 11, 2014 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder 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 Davis moved to approve the Financial Report. Larry Helm 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:

Dec 2014 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>22123</u>	through	<u>22158</u>	and totaling	<u>22,666.81</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>22159</u>	through	<u>22175</u>	and totaling	<u>33,386.23</u>
January 2015					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>22176</u>	through	<u>22189</u>	and totaling	<u>53,010.38</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>22190</u>	through	<u>22206</u>	and totaling	<u>32,926.58</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>22207</u>	through	<u>22208</u>	and totaling	<u>6,934.63</u>

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

VII. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP) Approval –

There was one Dairy Nutrient Management Plan submitted for Board approval. Staff recommended approval as it contained the necessary elements prescribed by the Conservation Commission and the operator had signed it indicating that it accurately reflects his operation and agrees to its implementation.

Larry Helm moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for:

- **Carousel Creamery (Bud and Landon Van Dyk).**

Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Interlocal Agreement.

Since 2004 Whatcom County has contracted with the Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) to plan and coordinate their riparian revegetation program using crews from the Whatcom Sheriff's Office. WCD staff has planned and coordinated projects ranging from development of planting plans to direct coordination of the crews in the field. The current two year agreement with Whatcom County expires on 3/31/2015, or before, as allocated funds are expended. Whatcom County has proposed a new \$20,000.00 agreement to continue this successful partnership for two additional years.

Whatcom County is preparing to implement their System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) for levee maintenance as required by the Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to current agreements activities, this agreement will enable the District to participate in the SWIF implementation and ensure that it meets the needs of stakeholders.

Larry Helm moved to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District for Coordination for Flood Projects for \$20,000.00 and authorize the Chair to sign the interlocal agreement when ready for signature. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Building Remodel.

George reported that with the Board's approval to build the lab, a service contract for under \$19,000.00 with Zervas to complete phase 1 of the building remodel was signed by District Chair, Joe Heller. Zervas will manage the contract for the lab.

There were concerns voiced about losing our federal partners and the rental income. George reviewed the process that the Board had undergone to get to the Phase 1 construction that is starting. This included the failed negotiations with USDA to renew a lease with the federal partners on terms that would have supported an addition to the building necessary to accommodate continued co-location. There simply was not enough space to both provide for co-location and fulfill the Board's desire for a robust education/outreach and sustainable farming practices programs. He asked the Board if they desired to continue with the remodel process. There was discussion about state budget potentials and impacts. The Board agreed that they wanted to continue with Phase 1 of the building remodel.

D. Phone System.

George reported that in discussing phone system set up of the Ring Central phone system, staff discovered that there were very large hidden fees that made that choice undesirable. After looking into the option of a local phone company, Whatcom Conservation District decided to go with Comcast and has a new phone number (360) 526-2381.

VIII. Other Business.

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

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – NRCS NW team staff met to start ranking EQIP applications. The ranking deadline is January 16, 2015. There were 50 applications. No funds have been released to date.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – There should be some announcements made **soon** on who was funded.

Federal Office Move – Alex reported that staff will start moving out of the space soon. Marty Rankin and Alex will work out of the Mt. Vernon office. Joy Hawley will maintain a presence in Whatcom County in Farm Service Agency's office until the agencies move to a new location.

B. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis –

Larry sent out an activity report to the Board prior to the meeting.

National Association of Conservation District (NACD) Membership – Larry expressed that after talking with WACD organization leaders, he thinks it would be beneficial for the Whatcom Conservation District to renew its NACD membership at the 2014 dues rate of \$718.00.

Larry Davis moved to renew the National Association of Conservation District membership dues for \$718.00 total. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dan Heeringa –

Dan attended the Dairy Nutrient Management Training put on by District staff on January 7, 2015. He expressed that staff did a good job on the training. There were approximately 60 people in attendance.

Larry Helm –

Larry brought up for discussion farm plans and buffers. George explained that buffers are seasonal and need to be larger in the winter when there is a potential for manure runoff.

Dick Yoder –

Dick reported about new Washington State Department of Agriculture rules on moving animals around and their brand release verification.

Joe Heller –

Joe reported that the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) will be meeting January 15 in Port Angeles, Clallam County. George will be attending.

C. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) –

In response to comments last month from a producer, George had staff compile information about acreage, participants and land use for the CREP contracts. This table, including the economic significance of the program, was shared with the Board. George provided details on the analysis. The CREP program is a voluntary agriculture program that has brought revenue and jobs into Whatcom County. George discussed the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs as options to protect ag land.

Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) –

The contracts with Whatcom County for the Pollution Identification and Correction program have been signed. District staff met with Whatcom County staff to outline the PIC process and review outreach materials, fact sheets and letters. Letters from the Whatcom County Executive and Council were sent out to those in the lower Dakota Creek Watershed regarding the PIC program and water quality. Whatcom County staff will follow up with another letter expressing that landowners can contact the District for technical assistance with farm plans.

Education Outreach –

George reported that per Board approval two interns have been hired for the social marketing task on the EPA Birch Bay project. Larry Davis expressed a desire to work with Aneka Sweeney and Nichole Embertson regarding the District's Education and Outreach Program. Nichole and Aneka will make a presentation in February to the Board.

D. Shana Joy, Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC).

Budget – The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) set up a budget webinar on January 9, 2015.

New Supervisors Recognized – Dan was given by Shana a certificate of recognition from the Washington State Conservation Commission as a new Supervisor.

Cultural Resources Policy –

The WSCC draft Cultural Resources Policy was sent out for comments. Comments are due back to the Commission by February 27, 2015. George expressed that Whatcom Conservation District has a process for Cultural Resource Reviews and Assessments in place that has been used for the CREP program. A resolution and process will be brought to the Board for approval to meet the policy.

IX. Record of Board Actions.

15-01 Larry Davis moved to amend the November 13, 2014 meeting minutes to reflect the input provided by Krista Kenner regarding the Department of Ecology's presentation. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

15-02 Larry Helm moved to direct Dawn to provide a summary of presentations, not the details, but to provide a detailed report of discussions leading to supervisor decisions. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

15-03 Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the December 11, 2014 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

15-04 Larry Davis moved to approve the Financial Report. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

15-05

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

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

15-06 Larry Helm moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for:

- **Carousel Creamery (Bud and Landon Van Dyk).**

Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

15-07 Larry Helm moved to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District for Coordination for Flood Projects for \$20,000.00 and authorize the Chair to sign the interlocal agreement when ready for signature. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

15-08 Larry Davis moved to renew the National Association of Conservation District membership dues for \$718.00 total. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Dated: March 2, 2015

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____