

WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2016

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 May 12, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Larry Davis, Chair	Dick Yoder, Vice-Chair
Joe Heller	Larry Helm

Also in attendance were:

Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant	Alex Hall, NRCS staff
Shana Joy, WSCC	

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Larry Davis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IV. Public Comment (written or in person).

There was no public comment either in writing or in person.

On behalf of the Whatcom CD Board, Larry Davis presented Dick Yoder with a plaque in appreciation for his ten years of service to the District.

V. Consent Agenda.

The Board adopted a consent agenda for approval of the previous meeting minutes, financial report and accounts payable. The financial report was mailed to the Board with their draft minutes from the April meeting. Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented the financial report. 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.

Larry Helm moved to approve the consent agenda: minutes of the April Board meeting as mailed, the financial report and authorize payment of District invoices and incurred expenses (below), as listed in the Accounts Payable Report. The Board further authorizes the payment of District expenses incurred subject to their review and approval at the next Board meeting. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

April 2016 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>23604</u>	through	<u>23625</u>	and totaling	<u>68,338.28</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>23626</u>	through	<u>23642</u>	and totaling	<u>34,515.26</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>23643</u>			and totaling	<u>1,123.13</u>
May 2016					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>23644</u>	through	<u>23665</u>	and totaling	<u>68,137.48</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>23666</u>	through	<u>23683</u>	and totaling	<u>36,397.51</u>

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Non-Dairy Farm Plan Approval –

Chuck Timblin completed inventory and moderate intensity farm plans for Sarbanand Farm. Both plans fulfilled the requisite elements for that type of plan. Staff recommended Board approval.

Larry Helm moved to approve the Critical Areas Ordinance Conservation Farm Plans for Sarbanand Farm. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Washington State Department of Ag (WSDA) Inter-Local Agreement.

The Inter-Local Agreement with the Washington State Department of Ag, which would provide funding for approximately a ½ time resource planner, was revisited. The current agreement only allows for part-time funding. It was decided to table the decision until it became clear where additional funding for the position could be found.

Larry Helm moved to table the WSDA Inter-Local Agreement for a ½ time resource planner until it became clear where additional funding for the position could be found. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Cluster Engineer.

The suggested edits to the Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) between San Juan Islands, Skagit, Whatcom and Whidbey Island Conservation Districts for sharing the Cluster Engineer were not well received by the other Conservation Districts. Letters from San Juan Islands and Whidbey Island Conservation Districts regarding the cluster engineer were sent to the Board. The Board directed the Chair to write a letter to the Washington State Conservation Commission regarding the Whatcom Conservation District's position of the Cluster Engineer Inter-Local Agreement.

Larry Helm directed the Chair to write a letter to the Washington State Conservation Commission regarding the Whatcom Conservation District's position of the Cluster Engineer Inter-Local Agreement. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

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

Local Work Group Funding –

Alex reported that NRCS is wrapping up allocations for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). There are 3 EQIP Energy contracts, one energy audit and two implementation projects and two fish passage projects that were funded. Whatcom County received about half of all funds allocated to the NW Local Work Group districts.

National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) –

There is an additional \$1.2 million available for livestock producers through the NWQI. Alex expects the NRCS staff to be busy contracting projects through the summer.

Technical Service Provider (TSP) –

A new Task Order was signed to provide TSP funds for Chris Clark, Bill Bonsen and Frank Corey which will run through November 2016.

NRCS and the Farm Service Agency have moved into their new office.

B. Supervisors.

Joe Heller –

Joe, Larry Davis and Theresa Sygitowicz completed the Schedule 22 audit review with Dawn Bekenyi as part of the Annual Financial report for the Washington State Auditor.

Joe reported that the 6th Grade Forestry Tour was scheduled for the next week. Most Whatcom County schools attend. The Whatcom Farm Forestry Association provided funds for some schools to purchase fuel to send their students this year.

C. Annual Plan of Work.

There was discussion regarding the annual plan of work and the upcoming May 31 deadline for completion. The Board reviewed the current annual plan and determined that there were no significant changes at this time and that they would like George present for additional input on potential changes. It was suggested by Shana Joy to approve the current plan as is, since there is limited time. It can be modified at a later date.

Joe Heller moved to approve the current annual plan and revise as necessary at a later date. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

16-35 Larry Helm moved to approve the consent agenda: minutes of the April Board meeting as mailed, the financial report and authorize payment of District invoices and incurred expenses (below), as listed in the Accounts Payable Report. The Board further authorizes the payment of District expenses incurred subject to their review and approval at the next Board meeting. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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16-36 Larry Helm moved to approve the Critical Areas Ordinance Conservation Farm Plans for Sarbanand Farm. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

16-37 Larry Helm moved to table the WSDA Inter-Local Agreement for a ½ time resource planner until it became clear where additional funding for the position could be found. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

16-38 Larry Helm directed the Chair to write a letter to the Washington State Conservation Commission regarding the Whatcom Conservation District's position of the Cluster Engineer Inter-Local Agreement. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

16-39 Joe Heller moved to approve the current annual plan and revise as necessary at a later date. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Joe Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Dated: July 28, 2016

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____