

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2017**

**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 February 16, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

**II. Attendance and Quorum.**

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

Larry Helm, Chair  
Dan Heeringa, Treasurer  
Theresa Sygitowicz

Larry Davis, Vice-Chair  
Joe Heller

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director  
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant

Alex Hall, NRCS staff  
Caitlin Guthrie, The Conservation Fund

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Larry Helm, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

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

**V. Presentations.**

WCD assistance to Whatcom County Flood Control Project - Frank Corey -

Frank gave a slide presentation reviewing the Flood Control Zone Projects that he assisted with during the last two years under the expiring contract. He also informed the Board of upcoming projects that are planned for the next 2 years under the proposed new contract.

Caitlin Guthrie, The Conservation Fund –

Caitlin Guthrie introduced herself and discussed the projects in which the Conservation Fund is involved.

Advanced Distillation Pilot Project –

George shared a schematic design of how the process works. He passed out a handout of the Janicki process. Chris Clark organized a tour of the dairy omniprocessor for the next day and invited Board members to attend.

There are two farms being looked at to fund as possible pilot projects. One is in Whatcom County. The Board wanted to know how to encourage funding the first pilot project in Whatcom County. It is hoped that having a working system in place will facilitate approval for NRCS EQIP cost-share availability in the future.

Lummi Bay Enhancement Project –

George gave an update on the project. The Washington State Conservation Commission approved the \$150,000 cost-share request for the Lummi Bay Enhancement Project. There was discussion regarding the particulars of a cost-share grant.

Candidates for Board Vacancies –

There are three candidates for the elected position on the Board; Heather Christianson, Rob Perry and Suzzi Snyder. There is one application to date for the appointed position, which will remain open until March 31, 2017. The District received almost 5,000 requests for mail-in ballots. The Board directed staff to hire people to assist with the election process.

**VI. 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 January 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 Davis moved to approve the consent agenda: minutes of the January 2017 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. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

Jan 2017 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	24441	through	24481	and totaling	21,072.61
Payroll check numbers:	24482	through	24502	and totaling	45,379.98
February 2017					
Voucher (check) numbers	24503	through	24524	and totaling	72,378.98
Payroll check numbers:	24525	through	24544	and totaling	43,860.96

**VII. Action Items.**

**A. Approval of Contracts.**

**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Contracts –**

CREP is a joint federal and state program to enhance fish habitat and protect water quality. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the administrative lead. A District resource specialist (Wayne Chaudiere, Frank Corey or Emily Hirsch) works with a landowner to develop a conservation plan that includes practices meeting the landowner’s needs. It is reviewed for technical sufficiency by the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative (Alex Hall) and George Boggs. The landowner signs the plan and it is passed on to FSA. The FSA County Oversight Committee (COC) approves all CREP plans. The current District policy is that once FSA approves the Federal Contract and CREP plan, then the CREP maintenance contract is brought to the Board for its approval. Absent unusual circumstances, the Board approves the standard-language maintenance agreement prescribed by the State Conservation Commission.

There was one CREP maintenance contract submitted for Board approval.

**Larry Davis moved to ratify the CREP maintenance contract for Parmveer and Simran Brar. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Theresa had some questions about debris and CREP projects. Frank assured her that no one had called to ask about clean up on blow down damage on any CREP projects. George pointed out that the District did not have any liability, since such damage would be natural causes. There

was discussion about beaver control within the 5 year maintenance window. Theresa asked that staff do a windfall assessment in conjunction with the Spring maintenance reviews. Frank stated that the best indication is if a landowner calls us with issues. Frank assured the Board that he would report back on any calls that he received.

**Flood Control Zone District contract –**

The District has provided technical assistance and crew coordination for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) since 2004. Frank Corey has provided coordination and supervision of crews provided by the Whatcom Sheriff's Office. These crews provide a cost effective labor force to implement flood protection projects and mitigation projects related to flood projects. The proposed contract is for two years beginning April 1, 2017.

**Theresa Sygitowicz moved to approve the Contract for Services between Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and Whatcom Conservation District for Coordination of Flood Projects in the amount of \$20,000. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**Department of Health ZAPS –**

The US EPA, the Lummi Nation, ZAPS Technologies, Inc., along with state (DOE and WSDA), are collaborating on a research project to demonstrate the use and effectiveness of real-time water quality monitoring devices and associated network design. The monitoring technology, ZAPS Liquid™, uses Hybrid Multispectral Analysis to continually (every two minutes) take readings of multiple water quality parameters and communicates results in real time onto a web based portal. The research project is focused in the Nooksack River Watershed where bacteria levels are of particular interest. Other parameters that will be monitored include suspended sediments, nutrients, and hydrocarbons.

Staff recommends signing the Interagency Agreement with the State of Washington Department of Health to support deploying the ZAPS Liquid monitoring stations in the Nooksack watershed.

**Larry Helm moved to approve the signing of the Final Contract with DOH for \$125,000 to support existing District staff to fulfill the scope of work included in the contract to support deploying the ZAPS Liquid monitoring stations in the Nooksack watershed. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**B. Vehicle Purchase.**

There was discussion regarding purchasing more vehicles for staff use with the addition of more staff. Staff presented a recommendation to the Board for a compact car and a mini-van. Theresa suggested that staff look into leasing options.

**Larry Helm moved to authorize purchase of two certified vehicles not to exceed \$30,000. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed. (4 ayes – 1 nay)**

**VIII. Other Business.**

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

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) –**

Alex reported that NRCS passed a statewide policy that requires applicants to have a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) to request and receive EQIP cost-share. Fifteen participants signed up for plans. There are currently only two Technical Service Providers (TSPs) in Whatcom County that can write the plans. Alex reported on the breakdown of EQIP applicants by project/funding type. NRCS staff are working on 50 active applications. Applications will be selected for funding the following week.

Alex gave some updates on the CAFO permit and the unknown impacts to the NRCS staff workload; the contract to add a watershed to the National Water Quality Initiative program with

the federal agency halt; and what it would take to add omniprocessors to the EQIP eligible practices list.

**B. Supervisor Reports.**

**Larry Helm –**

Larry attended WACD legislative days and met with Senator Ranker and Representative Buys. There appeared to be favorable support of Conservation District, but it will be a tight budget year.

**Dan Heeringa –**

Dan attended the CAFO public meeting and reported on it.

**Joe Heller –**

Joe will be applying for the appointed position on the Board to renew his position.

**Larry Davis –**

The entry for Dick Yoder in the Washington State Conservation Society “Leaving a Legacy” memorial is up on the website.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) – The budget for WACD and the Plant Materials Center is posted on the WACD website. WACD is accepting applications for the Northwest Area Representative.

Larry Davis also attend legislative days and left materials for Senator Ericksen and Rep Lytton.

Whatcom County Ag Advisory Committee – The meeting was cancelled due to weather. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2017.

**Theresa Sygitowicz –**

Ag Advisory Committee – Theresa reported that she received a letter from Whatcom County that stated she did not meet the qualifications for the vacancy to the Ag Advisory Committee.

**Legislative Days –**

Theresa went to Olympia and met with various legislators. She also attended the Cattlemen’s Day at the Hill. The Cattlemen’s dinner and fundraiser is scheduled for Feb. 25, 2017 at the Deming Log Show.

There was a lot of damage, blown down trees during the recent weather.

**C. George Boggs, Executive Director.**

George talked about the opportunities to get funding for the advanced distillation projects. One option could be through a Conservation Innovation Grant.

The Lynden FFA debate team asked to give a presentation at the next Board meeting. The Board agreed.

George reviewed some grant contracts coming from Whatcom County and the Department of Ag.

**IX. Record of Board Actions.**

**17-12 Larry Davis moved to approve the consent agenda: minutes of the January 2017 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. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

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- 17-13 Larry Davis moved to ratify the CREP maintenance contract for Parmveer and Simran Brar. Larry Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 17-14 Theresa Sygitowicz moved to approve the Contract for Services between Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and Whatcom Conservation District for Coordination of Flood Projects in the amount of \$20,000. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 17-15 Larry Helm moved to approve the signing of the Final Contract with DOH for \$125,000 to support existing District staff to fulfill the scope of work included in the contract to support deploying the ZAPS Liquid monitoring stations in the Nooksack watershed. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 17-16 Larry Helm moved to authorize purchase of two certified vehicles not to exceed \$30,000. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed. (4 ayes – 1 nay)**

**X. Adjournment.**

**There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Helm moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:29 p.m. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**  
 The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Dated: August 11, 2017

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 Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

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