

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2018**

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 September 20, at 1:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Larry Davis, Chair
Suzzi Snyder, Treasurer
Theresa Sygitowicz

Heather Christianson, Vice-Chair
Alan Chapman (via webcam)

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director
Gabriella Mednick, Outreach Assistant
Corina Cheever, Planner

Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant
Aneka Sweeney, Outreach Specialist
Hank Kastner

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Larry Davis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

IV. Public Comment (written or in person).

No written comments.

Hank Kastner is a resident of the Tenmile watershed. He and other residents are involved in and support the Tenmile Clean Water Project. He recently attended a District event (Holistic Pasture Management) at Edelweiss Dairy. The owner recently received a notice from the Department of Ecology to stop irrigating a field. This precipitated a controversy in the agricultural community. An Ecology representative was invited to the event by the landowner. So, a new controversial topic was tossed into the discussion. Hank complimented the poise at which CD staff were able to manage the discussion to accommodate this hot topic without sidetracking the intended purpose of the event.

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 August 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.

Suzzi Snyder moved to approve the consent agenda: minutes of the August 9, 2018 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. Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The following voucher/warrants and EFTs are approved for payment:

August 2018 - balance			
Payroll (direct deposit) &	33682199	totaling	42,191.90
EFT:	_____	_____	_____

Check numbers	<u>26144</u>	through	<u>26172</u>	totaling	<u>53,930.74</u>
Payroll (direct deposit):	<u>84055431</u>	and	<u>26173</u>	totaling	<u>42,151.07</u>
Check numbers	<u>26174</u>		<u>26201</u>	totaling	<u>28,968.14</u>
September 2018					
Payroll (direct deposit) & checks:	<u>26202</u>	through	<u>26205</u>	totaling	<u>43,466.81</u>
Check numbers	<u>26206</u>	through	<u>26236</u>	totaling	<u>83,403.90</u>

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) –

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 were three CREP maintenance contracts submitted for Board approval.

Theresa Sygitowicz moved to approve the CREP maintenance contract provided by Wayne Chaudiere for Cougar Creek Ranch, LLC. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Theresa Sygitowicz moved to approve the CREP maintenance contract provided by Wayne Chaudiere for Laura (Pat) Hirschhorn. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Theresa Sygitowicz moved to approve the CREP maintenance contract provided by Wayne Chaudiere for Whisper Lake Development, Inc. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. WACD Dues.

Larry Davis reviewed his past and present involvement on the WACD leadership. He outlined the dues structure and the tiers for dues. Dues must be paid up in order to vote at the annual WACD meeting in November.

Theresa Sygitowicz moved to approve the annual WACD Dues in the amount of \$3,600. Alan Chapman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. DNA/MST Project.

The Washington State Conservation Commission amended our Shellfish Grant Agreement to provide \$200,000 to develop a fecal source reference catalog and a standard operating procedure for collecting samples to develop such references in other areas. This necessitates contracting with labs with unique abilities to analyze the samples. Staff request authorization to contract with laboratories identified in the proposal.

Theresa Sygitowicz moved to approve and authorize execution of the DNA sub-recipient agreements with Exact Scientific Services and Practical Informatics LLC of Bellingham not

to exceed, respectively, \$124,500 and \$41,500. Suzzi Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Alan asked to discuss the project particulars with Nichole Embertson when he gets back.

Theresa asked that a press release regarding the DNA library project be sent to the local media. Alan cautioned that the release not promise more than it can deliver

D. Resolutions for the NW Area Meeting.

Larry Davis reported that there are 11 Conservation Districts in the NW Area. The NW Area meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2018 at the WACD Plant Materials Center in Bow, WA. All five Board members expressed that they would like to attend.

Skagit CD drafted a resolution regarding funding for fire-adapted communities. The Board reviewed and agreed to support the resolution at the meeting. Other possible resolutions were discussed with no action, since there were no resolutions to review.

VII. Other Business.

A. New Staff.

Gabriella Mednick, the new Education Outreach assistant, was introduced to the Board.

B. Manure Spreader Report

The District received a grant to purchase a manure spreader to lend to landowners to manage and apply their manure. Corina Cheever gave the Board a presentation on the Conservation District's new manure spreader and details of the program. The Manure Spreading Advisory is shared with those landowners that sign up to use the manure spreader.

C. Aneka Sweeney.

Aneka shared information about two small grants that the District has received from WA State Department of Ag. The Board approved the concept of the projects, but wanted to provide input into the messaging. The Board formed a working committee for the projects with Theresa and Suzzi.

D. Supervisor Reports.

The Board members gave updates on their activities and meetings attended since the last Board meeting.

Heather and Larry assisted with the Run with the Chums event. It went smoothly and had a good turnout.

The NW Area Representative position that was held by Larry Helm is vacant. Theresa expressed a desire to run for it. Larry will nominate Theresa at the Area meeting on October 2.

E. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Meetings –

George reported on the Water Temperature in the South Fork Nooksack meeting sponsored by the Sought Fork Watershed Education Committee that he attended the previous night.

Business Conservation Leader Breakfast. The Whatcom Land Trust will host a breakfast to honor Cold Stream Dairy. Theresa and Heather offered to attend with George.

Whatcom County Emergency Management –

George received an email regarding an event the week of October 13 that will host agencies to discuss “what to do if Mt Baker erupted.” There was discussion regarding participating in the event and what the District's role would be in emergency preparedness.

Water Quality Update –

George shared the latest Nooksack River Watershed Water Quality State: Fecal Coliform Bacteria results report for September 2018.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

18-61 Suzzi Snyder moved to approve the consent agenda: minutes of the August 9, 2018 Board meeting as mailed, the financial report, 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. Theresa Sygitowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Theresa Sygitowicz moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Dated: October 19, 2018

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant