

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
April 10, 2008**

**I. Time and Place of Meeting.**

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisor of the Whatcom Conservation District was held at the Ag Service Center, 6975 Hannegan Rd, Lynden, Washington on April 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Attendance and Quorum.**

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabina Gouran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Stone

Also in attendance were:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs, District Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alex Hall, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Terry Lenssen
	Joseph Heller		Bob Van Weerdhuizen
	Chris Clark		

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 7:10 p.m.

**IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

**Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the March 11, 2008 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**V. Financial Report.**

The financial report was mailed to the Board with their draft minutes from the March meeting.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report. There were no questions.

**Sabina Gouran moved to approve the Financial Report. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.**

There was a brief discussion of the plant sale. Folks who had arrived early and were waiting to get in were lined up for some blocks. There were an estimated 650 number of sales. Most people brought a friend, so we estimate over 1,000 people attending. This was significantly above last year.

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:

March 2008 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15826</u>	through	<u>15855</u>	and totaling	<u>56,647.61</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>15856</u>	through	<u>15870</u>	and totaling	<u>25,760.69</u>
April 2008					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15871</u>	through	<u>15885</u>	and totaling	<u>3,590.63</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>15886</u>	through	<u>15899</u>	and totaling	<u>24,752.96</u>

**moved by Sabina Gouran. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## VI. Reports.

Introductions were made.

### A. NRCS.

Joy has been busy planning. Alex is attending Cultural Resources training in Omak.

### B. George Boggs.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Budget Template –

George introduced the WACD budget templates. The concept has been approved as the way to assist the Association and Commission budget funding request to the legislature and Governor for next biennium.

WACD Dues –

The WACD Dues worksheet was completed and returned. The WACD uses the worksheet to determine the annual dues for each Conservation District.

Potential asbestos contamination of CREP Projects –

George gave the Board a review and the outcome of the asbestos issue on CREP projects in the Sumas River. Both the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) agreed to sign off on the existing CREP projects. The agencies agreed that no further maintenance is required on these projects at this time. FSA will continue to pay rent on the CREP projects.

Sabina gave some history on growing conditions in the area. She stated that there is some plant mortality, as well as growth in the project areas. There is also some volunteer plant growth. Sabina pointed out that the whole CREP buffer is not effected by the Swift Creek deposits, it is only immediately along the stream bank. The CREP buffer is a good buffer against transport from river to fields.

WS Conservation Commission (WSCC) –

George reported that the WSCC Regional Managers will be in contact with the Conservation Districts to check on progress on grant deliverables and funds expended. They will be using this information to forecast funding needs for next fiscal year and biennium.

Puget Sound Caucus –

The Puget Sound Caucus has been meeting working on plans. They will probably meet again this month. The 12 Puget Sound Conservation Districts are considering an Inter-local Agreement. ("ILA") It could provide a mechanism to share resources both technical and administrative (Board member governance). It is similar to the ILA we have with Skagit & Okanogan. George passed out draft with request that the Board decide at next meeting if it is worth pursuing.

Discharges to the Nooksack

George reported that the Department of Ag responded to two discharges near Nooksack this past month. One appeared to be an application to saturated land resulting in run-off. The other was a broken riser which allowed the manure to over-flow into a nearby ditch. The Portage Bay

commercial shellfish beds were closed and product recalled. Sampling near the beds showed very high bacterial counts through in the river at Marine Drive. Sampling was very high in the tributary to the river.

Stone/Thomas Drainage –

George reviewed the drainage concerns at the Stone and Thomas properties. There was conflict over the desired water level due to the CREP project and beaver activities. The Stones were agreeable to lower the water so as to not impact their EQIP project and habitat. The Thomas's wanted their pasture and wanted the water lowered two feet. George discussed the Stone's EQIP contract with John and Alex. Beginning about April 28 Frank will drop the water level and breakdown the beaver dam. George reviewed the proposed beaver deceivers (3) to be installed in the Stone project. It was mentioned that due to beaver issues, beaver deceivers should be considered for future projects with little slope. The board agreed to fund installation of the beaver deceivers on the Stone project.

George reported that the WS Conservation Commission met with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) to get trapping laws changed to help with beaver issues.

Salmon Safe –

George reported that Fresh Breeze Dairy (Shawn Langley) has received the Salmon Safe label.

Dept of Transportation (WSDOT) –

George and Chris met with the WSDOT regarding Phase 2 of the State Route 9 drainage fix. The plan calls for additional tile for the Skillman property. George reviewed the problems created when the WSDOT widened State Route 9 and removed the roadside ditches. This impacted drainage. The water doesn't flow when the soils are saturated. He discussed the plan for Phase 2. However there is only about \$40,000 left to do the work. This may not be enough. George discussed what could potentially happen if there are not enough funds to complete the project.

## **VII. Action Items.**

### **A. Approval of Conservation Plans.**

Dairy Nutrient Management Plan –

One dairy nutrient management plan rewrite was submitted for approval.

**Sabina Gouran moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Jeremy Visser (Viacres Dairy). Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

CREP Contracts –

There were no contracts to approve at this meeting. The Whatcom Conservation District has over 200 contracts and sign-ups are in good shape for this year.

### **B. Approval of Contracts.**

King Conservation District Inter-local Agreement –

An Inter-local Agreement was drafted to share Andrew Phay's services with King Conservation District. King CD will reimburse the Whatcom Conservation District for Andrew's services.

**Sabina Gouran moved to approve and sign the inter-local agreement with King Conservation District. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Beaver Deceiver contract –

George presented a cost estimate to install three beaver deceivers on the Ed Stone property to control water impoundment in the upper Tenmile Creek drainage. The project will be funded through CREP cost-share.

**Sabina Gouran moved to accept the quote and approve a contract with Squalicum Mountain Enterprises to install three beaver deceivers on the Ed Stone property for \$1,306.00. Ed Stone seconded the motion to allow discussion. Ed abstained from the vote. The motion was passed.**

Schneider Creek Fish Passage & Restoration Project –

The District received funding for the Schneider Creek Fish Passage & Restoration Project from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The contract is for \$33,405.63 with \$18,400 in match.

**Ed Stone moved to approve and sign the contract with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Schneider Creek Fish Passage & Restoration Project in the amount of \$33,405.63. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**C. Other Business.**

Internal Audit –

Jerry Van Dellen and Sabina Gouran agreed to be the audit committee. The audit committee scheduled the internal audit for April 16, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

WADE Training –

The Washington Association of District Employees training is scheduled for June 16 -18, 2008 at Sleeping Lady in Leavenworth, WA.

Employee Benefits –

It was decided to form a committee of two Supervisors and employee representatives to discuss the recommendations regarding employee benefits. The Board appointed Dick Yoder and Terry Lenssen to the committee.

Employee Medical Plan –

The employee medical plan is scheduled for renewal on May 1, 2008. There is a 13% increase in premiums this year. Dawn reported that she factored in a larger increase into the current budget. Dawn also gave the Board information on the existing medical plans and other medical plan options, including the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB). The Board discussed the options. They decided to renew the current medical plan.

**Ed Stone moved to approve the current medical plan with the 13% increase in premiums. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Employees Medical Benefits –

It was pointed out to the Board that the only time to add dependants, other than through a loss of current coverage, was at open enrollment. The staff requested that the Board reconsider covering medical premiums for all full-time employees. After some discussion the Board agreed to remove the limitation.

**Ed Stone moved to remove the policy of not fully covering premium costs for full-time employees hired after 2004, noting that the WCD policy manual and benefits will be further worked out in committee. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

It was hoped that Dick and Terry could connect with staff prior to the next Board meeting. It was understood that it may take some time to address all employee benefits issues.

**VIII. Other Business.**

**A. District Planning.**

Plans of Work –

George gave a power point presentation introducing the annual plan and long range plans of work. He noted that the Long Range Strategic Work Plan should be done with community input.

There was discussion regarding air emissions and air quality. Is this an area that the District would like to continue to work in and seek funding for? Chris discussed ammonia emissions, planning and things that producers have done to help curb emissions, including injection and irrigation efficiencies. It was pointed out that injecting on higher grass will reduce air emissions.

Budget Templates –

George passed out the draft budget templates and asked the Board to review them. We will determine which programs the District wants to include in their annual plan and budget.

May Board meeting –

The May Board meeting was changed to Wednesday, May 14, 2008 to accommodate Board schedules.

**IX. Record of Board Actions.**

**08-23 Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the March 11, 2008 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**08-24 Sabina Gouran moved to approve the Financial Report. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.**

**08-25**

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**moved by Sabina Gouran. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**08-26 Sabina Gouran moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Jeremy Visser (Viacres Dairy). Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**08-27 Sabina Gouran moved to approve and sign the inter-local agreement with King Conservation District. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**08-28 Sabina Gouran moved to accept the quote and approve a contract with Squalicum Mountain Enterprises to install three beaver deceivers on the Ed Stone property for \$1,306.00. Ed Stone seconded the motion to allow discussion. Ed abstained from the vote. The motion was passed.**

**08-29 Ed Stone moved to approve and sign the contract with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Schneider Creek Fish Passage & Restoration Project in the amount of \$33,405.63. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**08-30 Ed Stone moved to approve the current medical plan with the 13% increase in premiums. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**08-31 Ed Stone moved to remove the policy of not fully covering premium costs for full-time employees hired after 2004, noting that the WCD policy manual and benefits will be further worked out in committee. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**X. Adjournment.**

**There being no further business before the meeting, Ed Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Dated: May 28, 2008

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Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

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