

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2007**

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 18, 2007, at 1:00 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sabina Gouran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Jimerson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Stone		

Also in attendance were:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs, District Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joy Hawley, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 1:05 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the March 21, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson 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.

Dick Yoder moved to approve the Financial Report. Joyce Jimerson 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:

March 07 - balance				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14889</u>	through	<u>14897</u>	and totaling <u>9,563.02</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14898</u>	through	<u>14912</u>	and totaling <u>22,108.48</u>
April 2007				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14913</u>	through	<u>14927</u>	and totaling <u>6,250.29</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14928</u>	through	<u>14941</u>	and totaling <u>20,508.16</u>

Voucher (check) numbers 14942 through 14956 and totaling 10,219.52
moved by Dick Yoder. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Two dairy nutrient management plans were submitted for approval.

Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plans for Joan Raymond (update) and Scott Plagerman (new plan) reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

One dairy nutrient farm plan was submitted for certification.

Dick Yoder moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Drue Dickinson reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Contracts.

CREP Contracts –

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the administrative lead on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) joint program. The FSA County Committee approves all plans. The current policy is that once FSA approves the Federal Contract and CREP plan the contract is then brought to the Board meeting for its approval. The Board approved two standard-language contracts.

Joyce Jimerson moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Stan Honrud (06-04-CR01:06-34) and Donald & Joan Ruhl (06-04-CR01:07-02). Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP Maintenance Costs for Cover Crop Seeding –

WCD CREP technicians have concluded that there is a need for cover crop establishment on some CREP projects in areas where there is bare soil. These areas are open to invasion by weed species and are susceptible to erosion. Establishment of a good cover crop will eventually lead to reduced need for maintenance and in turn lower the costs for maintenance.

Bare soil may be the result of previous cropping, overgrazed pasture or of other past activities that have reduced vegetative cover. Site preparation activities necessary for planting may result in some bare soil as well. WCD site prep specifications require minimal disturbance of soil and vegetation. This is usually limited to planting spots or strips.

We have found the standard seed mix and application rate of 36 lbs. per acre costs about \$110 per acre. The breakdown is \$53/acre for the seed and about \$57 per acre for culti-packing and seeding, which is usually done simultaneously. Staff gave the Board a breakdown of the recommended standard cover crop seeding for most sites in Whatcom County.

The following CREP projects, which are being planted this spring, are recommended for cover crop seeding.

Project Name	Acres	Seeding Cost
Renier Elenbaas	10.3	\$1,133
Emil DeWilde	2.3	\$253
Manthey - 188	3.6	\$396
Singh	1.0	\$110
Kelsey - Martin	2.8	\$308
Sharon Waddell ('05 planting)	1.0	\$100

Jerry & Helen Hulbert	3.6	\$396
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Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the recommendation list of projects and costs for CREP cover crop seeding maintenance. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

TSP Contract –

The District received a TSP contract for \$3,904.56 with 50% funds (\$1,952.28) from NRCS to hire Bill Bonsen to do design work for EQIP contract recipients under the Livestock grant. The TSP completion date is June 30, 2007.

Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize George Boggs to sign the TSP contract with NRCS for \$3,904.56. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Engineering Contract regarding Verizon's Contractor Trespass–

George explained the situation with Verizon excavating under our parking lot to put cables in. They were not in the right-of-way and there was some question as to whether any damage was done to underground pipes for cables for our building. George contacted RH2 regarding doing some engineering to determine the impact of Verizon's actions. The contract amount is not to exceed \$2,000.

Joyce Jimerson moved that the Whatcom Conservation District enter into a contract with RH2 for engineering services regarding the Verizon Excavation not to exceed \$2,000. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tenmile Watershed Fourmile Creek Riparian Buffer Competitive Vegetation Control Contract –

2007 is the final year for riparian buffer competitive vegetation control on the Fourmile Creek project. As per our Department of Ecology Tenmile Phase III grant, bids to do riparian buffer competitive vegetation control on the Fourmile Creek were sought and ranked by staff. The winning bid was Squalicum Mountain Enterprises for \$5,425.00.

Joyce Jimerson moved that the District enter into a contract to do riparian buffer competitive vegetation control with Squalicum Mountain Enterprises in the amount of \$5,425.00 on the Fourmile Creek Project.

Good Governance Grant –

The WA Conservation Commission has simplified the Basic Funding grant application. It has been renamed the Good Governance Grant. The Board reviewed the brief paperwork involved and authorized signature.

Joyce Jimerson moved to sign the WA Conservation Commission's Good Governance Grant in the amount of \$13,538. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Employee Medical Insurance.

The employee medical insurance contract is due for renewal on May 1st. Deana Lewis from Snapper Shuler and Kenner did a market search for our group again this year. Dawn reviewed the medical insurance renewal information. There is an 8% increase in medical premiums to maintain the current medical plan for employees and dependants.

Dick Yoder moved to approve renewal of the current employee medical insurance plan with Regence Blueshield. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Joy Hawley, NRCS.

EQIP Contracts –

Joy reported that there are 9 EQIP contracts in Whatcom County. One has been signed. The deadline to sign and submit contracts is May 1st.

Resource Conservationist –

The Resource Conservationist position has been posted with an April 27th close date.

B. Mt. Baker High School.

Todd Rightmire's High School class gave a presentation for the Whatcom Conservation District Board on as part of a FFA competition on Ag Issues. They did a skit on the Critical Areas Ordinance and its impact on small farms. Following the skit, the Board and George were asked for suggestions for improvement.

C. Supervisor Reports.

Dick Yoder –

Dick went to Olympia with the Cattleman's group regarding the Senate bill on farming and buffers. He was disappointed with the lack of interest shown by some members of the Ag Committee to those that testified. George explained that the best time to connect with legislators is in the "off season" on your home turf. It is easier to show them what you mean than to get your point across with testimony during committee sessions.

D. George Boggs.

Annual Report –

George asked the Board for input on the Annual Report. He was specifically seeking their direction on the Public Education program. The Board agreed that the District should target our funds to conduct public outreach to sectors of the community who are likely to need technical or financial assistance to address resource concerns identified in our long range plan of work. They would like the District to continue to be involved in the NW Washington Fair because of the large volume of people attending who are likely interested in our programs. The message should be tailored to get across our messages.

The Board wants George to continue to stay involved with air quality and wetlands/conservation mitigation issues.

George reported on the Air Quality conference that he attended in California and the impacts of diesel engines on the environment.

George also reported on wetlands mitigation banking. He described that such a program must be strategically planned to avoid the inadvertent loss of prime farmland while achieving environmental needs. The District would like to be in a position to assist in the appropriate placement of wetland or conservation mitigation banks.

Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the annual plan as outlined. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Small Farm Planning –

George reported that the District may receive funds for small farm planning from Whatcom County. If the funds became available, he asked for authorization to hire a small farm planner.

Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize George to advertise and hire a small farm planner, if funds become available. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

07-19 Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the March 21, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

07-20 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Financial Report. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

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07-23 Dick Yoder moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Drue Dickinson reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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- 07-30 Dick Yoder moved to approve renewal of the current employee medical insurance plan with Regence Blueshield. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-31 Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the annual plan as outlined. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-32 Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize George to advertise and hire a small farm planner, if funds become available. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Joyce Jimerson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Dated: May 17, 2007

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____