

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2004**

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 August 12, 2004, at 12:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Barker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rod Visser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cornelius Timmermans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Randy Kinley		

Also in attendance were:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs, District Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Gillies, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor
	Wayne Chaudiere, CREP Tech		Sonya Schaller, CREP Tech

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Robert Barker as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:01 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Rod Visser moved that the minutes of the July 8, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

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

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report. There was discussion regarding CREP maintenance and whether beaver control could be an eligible expense. Bob explained that John Quanz, Dept of Ag, could trap beaver without having to adhere to the state trapping constraints. It could be possible to contract with him to do beaver control.

Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve the Financial Report. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Financial 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:

July 2004 - balance

Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12322</u>	through	<u>12395</u>	and totaling	<u>147,015.83</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>12396</u>	through	<u>12410</u>	and totaling	<u>18,562.09</u>
August 2004					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12411</u>	through	<u>12432</u>	and totaling	<u>62,052.97</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>12433</u>	through	<u>12446</u>	and totaling	<u>18,334.11</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12447</u>	through	<u>12450</u>	and totaling	<u>6,257.76</u>

moved by Jerry Van Dellen. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of 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 contracts. The current policy is that once FSA approves the Federal Contract and CREP Plan, George can sign for the District. The contract is then brought to the Board meeting for ratification. As a matter of course, the District has several CREP contracts to approve.

Jerry Van Dellen moved to ratify the list of CREP contracts. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Contract No.	First Name	Last Name
02-04-CR02:03-150	Jeff & Diana	Bedlington Family LLC - formerly Eleanor Bedlington
02-04-CR02:03-135	John	Clark
02-04-CR02:03-127	Wendy	Davis
02-04-CR02:03-134	Arnold & Pat	Folkertsma
02-04-CR02:03-129	Kyle	Hendrickson
04-04-CR02:04-14	Bob Hunter	Hunter Farms
02-04-CR02:03-128	Hilton & Betty	Kelly
02-04-CR02:03-133	Jim	Lallas
02-04-CR02:03-118	Joseph & Elizabeth	Lorenzo
02-04-CR02:03-130	Robert	Lovelace
02-04-CR02:03-123	Thompson Farm	Marjorie Bennet, Teresa Loe, D Thompson, Ann Tichy
02-04-CR02:03-121	Patricia	McLachlan
02-04-CR02:03-153		Mossberry Farm (Kelly Kinkade)
02-04-CR02:03-131	Gunter	Schimschal
02-04-CR02:03-132	Hilbert and Suzaane	Schimschal
02-04-CR02:03-154	Kathi & Charles	Seaman
02-04-CR02:03-126	Nooksack Tribe	Tenaska CREP Project
04-04-CR02:04-9	Sharon	Waddell
04-04-CR02:04-5	Gene & Linda	Zande

CREP Cultural Resources Contracts –

The District awarded the Cultural Resource Assessment contract to the lowest bidder for the Carlson Project. There was discussion as to whether these investigations were essential. Based on Rod Hamilton's comments at WADE, FSA would probably move to a less conservative posture relative to what actions constitute undertakings (undertakings require Cultural Resource Assessments.) The prospects are that fewer of these will have to be completed in the future.

Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the list of Cultural Resource Assessment contracts. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Contractor	Contract #	Project	Cost
Garth Baldwin (Drayton Archaeological Research)	04-04-CRS02: 04-12	Carlson	\$ 1,420.18

B. John Gillies.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program –

John gave an update on the PDR program. The first easement has been awarded and almost completed. The easements have to go through real estate recording channels to be registered this takes a while. The Committee is looking at three more sites to award easements.

EQIP –

John reported that last year's EQIP was a frustrating process. NRCS is looking at how to change the process. The Local Work Groups are schedule to begin meeting soon for next year's EQIP program. There will be an administrative change with EQIP. NRCS will be assuming the administrative duties from FSA for EQIP. NRCS will be using an automated web base system that looks promising.

WWU –

John met with an AgroEcology class from Western Washington University (Huxley). He took them on a tour of VeenHuizen Dairy and Steve Groen's dairy. They discussed farming and environmental issues. Quite a few people in the class had never been on a farm before. The tour was informative for them.

Bob asked John how the administration of the EQIP and CREP programs was going and the relationship between FSA, NRCS and the District.

C. George Boggs.

CREP II –

There is recognition around the State that this program could be improved. Making changes should garner greater support by FSA County Committees. The next phase will try to address some of these concerns.

CREP II could start in 2007. The CREP Committee has heard that expanding the program to include water quality protection activities is important. It would not be as prescriptive as the current program (focusing only on fish habitat creation). CREP II could offer a variety of practices to address the key areas of resource concern.

The CREP Committee will have a proposal ready to present at the WACD Area meetings and at the WACD Convention in Tacoma.

Interagency for Outdoor Recreation –

George was in Olympia for three days earlier this week ranking grants for the Interagency for Outdoor Recreation. There were three tiers of applications for acquisitions to protect land. The first tier (natural) involved "pristine" areas. The second had some decline (critical fish & wildlife habitat) and the third was not pristine but located near cities (urban). It was quite informative.

Critical Areas Ordinance –

Whatcom County's Critical Areas Ordinance needs to be revised this year. It will probably be similar to the current CAO since the County has little time to conduct a major overhaul. George suggested that the District's role would shift from being the sole source of plans to include plan approval/status reviews, offering coached planning. The County needs to provide adequate funding for any District role.

Shellfish –

George informed the Board that there was a water quality health issue in Drayton Harbor. The County revealed that it had permitted a trailer park with 20+ connections to a failed septic system to continue over the past 4 years. There has been very little inspection of septic tanks. It was pointed out that Whatcom County needs to fund the Department of Health to do monitoring and testing.

Livestock General Permit –

Staff has reviewed the draft General Permit for Livestock operations. George gave the background law on permitting in the Clean Water Act. The WA Department of Ecology would like to make Washington's General Permit include state regulations. This would make Washington State more stringent than other states, which have to adhere to the federal standards. Our District has a concern about Washington standing out as stricter. With market conditions as they are, it would be better served to have an even playing field. Therefore it was suggested that the District write a letter to those drafting the General Permit encouraging them to address federal standards only. If they have areas of concern the agencies should address them independently of the General Permit language. Ground Water Management Areas can be set up to target areas of concern. Bob Barker suggested that George draft a letter for Board approval addressing our concerns with the General Permit to be sent to the LDOC copying it to the Directors of the Department of Ecology, Department of Ag and Conservation Commission.

Cornie Timmermans directed staff to send a letter from the Whatcom Conservation District to the agencies regarding language of the state Livestock General Permit. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP Contracts –

The CREP contract for Rod and Penny Visser had been held when approving the other contracts.

Jerry Van Dellen moved to ratify the CREP contract for Rod and Penny Visser 04-04-CR02:04-7. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed. (Rod Visser abstained from voting.)

EQIP –

The first Local Work Group meeting for this year's EQIP is scheduled for August 18, 2004. The first two rounds of contracts under the current Farm Bill have been unsatisfactory. There have been too few contracts with too much money in each contract. Under the current size neutral ranking the small farm got all the points and large contracts. It was suggested that more farmers need to attend the meetings to set up the ranking process this year. It may help to determine what a producer is.

VII. Other Business.

A. Staff Presentations.

Wayne Chaudiere –

Wayne has been an employee of the District since March 1996. He described some of the programs that he has worked on with the District. Wayne was a small farm planner in Drayton Harbor and worked on a livestock compost project through two DOE Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) Grants prior to working on CREP. Wayne has a forestry background and is a graduate of the University of Washington.

Wayne was an integral part in the creation of CREP-in-a-Box and the CREP database, which are foundations for the current CREP program.

Wayne said that the CREP team (Sabina, Sonya and he) were close to meeting their goal of 25-30 new plans this year even with the "work stoppage." The projects may not be able to have site prep done this fall, however, due to Cultural Resources Reviews and approval of the FSA County Committee which would push installation back another year. It has been determined that fall site prep is essential to establishing CREP projects. Three years of maintenance is proving to be enough for most CREP projects to get them established.

Sonya Schaller –

Sonya is a CREP technician. She will be filling in for Sabina Gouran while Sabina is on maternity leave. Sonya gave the board an overview of her background and education. Sonya worked with the US Forest Service.

Sonya has already gotten six new sign-ups for the CREP program since she started in March 2004.

B. CRM Tour.

The Whatcom Conservation District will be a co-host with the Ag Preservation Committee (APC) for the Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Tour scheduled on September 22, 2004.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

04-51 Rod Visser moved that the minutes of the July 8, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-52 Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve the Financial Report. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Financial Report was approved.

04-53

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02-04-CR02:03-126	Nooksack Tribe	Tenaska CREP Project
04-04-CR02:04-9	Sharon	Waddell

04-55 Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the list of Cultural Resource Assessment contracts. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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04-56 Cornie Timmermans directed staff to send a letter from the Whatcom Conservation District to the agencies regarding language of the state Livestock General Permit. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-57 Jerry Van Dellen moved to ratify the CREP contract for Rod and Penny Visser 04-04-CR02:04-7. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed. (Rod Visser abstained from voting.)

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Jerry Van Dellen moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 p.m. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Dated: September 22, 2004

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant