

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
December 8, 2005**

**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 December 8, 2005, at 12:00 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"/>	Cornelius Timmermans
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rod Visser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Jimerson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder		

Also in attendance were:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs, District Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Gillies, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Beth Chisholm		Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:05 p.m.

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

The November board meeting minutes were not ready to approve.

**V. Financial Report.**

In Dawn's absence George Boggs reviewed the financial report with the Board and asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report. There were no questions.

**Rod Visser moved to approve the Financial Report. Dick Yoder 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:

Nov 2005 - balance				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13655</u>	through	<u>13666</u>	and totaling <u>10,798.08</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13667</u>	through	<u>13679</u>	and totaling <u>17,971.40</u>
December 2005				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13680</u>	through	<u>13695</u>	and totaling <u>11,281.38</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13696</u>	through	<u>13709</u>	and totaling <u>17,988.72</u>

**moved by Rod Visser. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**VI. Action Items.**

**A. 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 ratification. As per the current policy, the Board approved twelve contracts.

**Rod Visser moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Rick & Denise Bosman (04-04-CR02:05-35), Barb Casort (04-04-CR02:05-36), Mike & Lisa Henninger (04-04-CR02:05-37), Brady Mason (04-04-CR02:05-39), John Robson (04-04-CR02:05-40), Michele Savage (04-04-CR02:05-41), John Sand (04-04-CR02:05-29), Melvin & Joyce Hayes (04-04-CR02:05-45), Bob Hunter [Hunter Farms II] (04-04-CR02:05-42), Steve Mach II (04-04-CR02:05-30), Kathryn Ryan (04-04-CR02:05-31), Mildred Snyder (04-04-CR02:05-32. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

CREP Cultural Resources Assessments –

There are three CREP applicants that needs to have cultural resource assessments done on their proposed projects. The District sends out requests for bids to a list of certified archeologists. From those that respond the District selects the lowest bidder. The District enters into an agreement for the cultural resource assessment with the contractor. One contract for three projects was presented to the Board for approval.

**Dick Yoder moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contract with Equinox Research & Consulting (Kelly Bush) for the Alan Tarr, Mike Sinlan and Fred Robson CREP projects in the amount of \$3,304.41. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Small Farm contract

Whatcom County Planning and Development Services has agreed to contract with the District to provide small farm planning services to farms within the Drayton Harbor watershed. The District staff will prepare educational materials, conduct landowner workshops and tours.

**Joyce Jimerson moved that the WCD approve the \$30,346.95 contract with Whatcom County for small farm education and outreach in Drayton Harbor. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Pioneers in Conservation Grant

The District received word that the California Creek Riparian Rehabilitation Pioneers in Conservation Grant application was approved for funding in the amount of \$32,200. At least \$18,400 matching contributions will be provided by landowners under this contract.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the California Creek Riparian Rehabilitation Pioneers in Conservation Grant in the amount of \$32,200. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Livestock Cost-share

The original cost-share application for Lenssen Dairy requested \$10,000 cost-share for a \$75,000 lagoon project. The WA Conservation Commission since revised its cost share policy raising the limit to \$25,000 of cost-share limit. Further, the policy was made retroactive to all cooperators who had previously made a request. The Lenssen's requested increased cost-share.

**Rod Visser moved to rescind the previous cost-share contract and approve the \$25,000 cost-share amount for the Lenssen Dairy. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**B. John Gillies.**

2006 EQIP

John reported that for the 2006 EQIP cost-share program there is a proposed increase in rates. He was seeking the District to concur with the new cost-share rates.

**Rod Visser moved to approve the new EQIP cost-share rates. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**VII. Other Business.**

**A. WACD Annual Convention.**

District Award –

The Whatcom Conservation District received the 2005 NRCS Stewardship Partnership award at the WACD Annual Convention in Yakima. John Gillies, NRCS nominated the WCD for the 2005 NRCS district partnership award.

Joyce Jimerson attended the WACD convention in Yakima. She reported that it was very informative and received a better understanding and appreciation of the workings of the WA Conservation Commission and individual conservation districts. She encouraged other board members to attend in the future. She saw the need to create better avenues for delivering services to our clients.

**B. Avian Bird Flu roundtable.**

USDA Dept of Ag held a workshop at Semihamoo Resort at the end of November. Dick Yoder attended representing agriculture. Dick reported that there was a lack of clear, concrete solutions. There was also a lack of discussion directed towards the Ag industry related to this issue.

**C. CREP Maintenance.**

CREP program was addressed in greater detail. The state pays for maintenance on CREP projects and cost caps are set by the state. Any increases for projects above the cap need approval by the WA Conservation Commission at the state level.

Wayne informed the Board that for a number of projects the Commission cap would be exceeded. The reasons being beaver control, noxious weeds control and replanting. There was discussion regarding raising maintenance caps.

Joyce Jimerson questioned money being spent on replanted when beaver are present. Trying to choose plants that are beaver resistant.

The need for better communication between the FSA committee, CREP contractors and CREP technicians was discussed so that practice costs are consistent with contractor costs.

**D. District Livestock Program.**

George discussed anticipated changes that the Conservation Commission was considering for Phase II funding to Conservation districts. All 47 conservation districts are eligible. He explained that we no longer have a livestock program but would become "compliance response program". The Livestock budget form is due to the commission on Dec 16. If this is approved it will shift monies and program priorities dramatically. George explained the next TSP agreement that he was negotiating with NRCS could be frustrated by the lack of program elements. He would report to the Board at the next meeting as to the impacts to the District's current budget

**E. District Assessment.**

A potential county-wide assessment for the district was discussed amongst board members.

**VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**05-93 Rod Visser moved to approve the Financial Report. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.**

**05-94**

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

Nov 2005 - balance

Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13655</u>	through	<u>13666</u>	and totaling	<u>10,798.08</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13667</u>	through	<u>13679</u>	and totaling	<u>17,971.40</u>

December 2005

Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13680</u>	through	<u>13695</u>	and totaling	<u>11,281.38</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13696</u>	through	<u>13709</u>	and totaling	<u>17,988.72</u>

**moved by Rod Visser. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**05-95 Rod Visser moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Rick & Denise Bosman (04-04-CR02:05-35), Barb Casort (04-04-CR02:05-36), Mike & Lisa Henninger (04-04-CR02:05-37), Brady Mason (04-04-CR02:05-39), John Robson (04-04-CR02:05-40), Michele Savage (04-04-CR02:05-41), John Sand (04-04-CR02:05-29), Melvin & Joyce Hayes (04-04-CR02:05-45), Bob Hunter [Hunter Farms II] (04-04-CR02:05-42), Steve Mach II (04-04-CR02:05-30), Kathryn Ryan (04-04-CR02:05-31), Mildred Snyder (04-04-CR02:05-32. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**05-96 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contract with Equinox Research & Consulting (Kelly Bush) for the Alan Tarr, Mike Sinlan and Fred Robson CREP projects in the amount of \$3,304.41. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**05-97 Joyce Jimerson moved that the WCD approve the \$30,346.95 contract with Whatcom County for small farm education and outreach in Drayton Harbor. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**05-98 Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the California Creek Riparian Rehabilitation Pioneers in Conservation Grant in the amount of \$32,200. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**05-99 Rod Visser moved to rescind the previous cost-share contract and approve the \$25,000 cost-share amount for the Lenssen Dairy. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**05-100 Rod Visser moved to approve the new EQIP cost-share rates. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **IX. Adjournment.**

**There being no further business before the meeting, Cornie Timmermans moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Dated: January 18, 2006

---

Beth Chisholm, Resource Specialist