

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 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 February 14, 2007, at 12:15 p.m.

**II. Attendance and Quorum.**

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabina Gouran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Jimerson
<input checked="" 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		Chris Clark, Resource Specialist
	Stu Trefry, WA Conservation Commission		Robert Barker, Associate Supervisor
	Tim Vander Haak, Landowner		Henry Bierlink, WCAPC
	Sherm Polinder, WCAPC		John Gillies

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Dick Yoder acting as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:14 p.m.

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

**Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the January 10, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**V. Financial Report.**

George explained that an error was found on employee's composite rate forms when tax rates and salary were changed for 2007. The error amounted to approximately \$3.50 per hour per employee. Dawn has contacted the WA Conservation Commission and WA Department of Ecology regarding the error. The overpayment has been corrected with February grant invoicing. Due to the close out of CREP TA 2006, the Commission requested a repayment of \$7,651.

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

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

**Ed Stone 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:

Jan 2007 - balance				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14727</u>	through	<u>14742</u>	and totaling <u>14,310.17</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14743</u>	through	<u>14758</u>	and totaling <u>20,784.66</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14759</u>			and totaling <u>96.95</u>
February 2007				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14760</u>	through	<u>14781</u>	and totaling <u>19,294.06</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14782</u>	through	<u>14795</u>	and totaling <u>13,449.24</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14796</u>	through	<u>14798</u>	and totaling <u>1,125.68</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14799</u>	through	<u>14800</u>	and totaling <u>6,988.50</u>

**moved by Ed Stone. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## VI. Action Items.

### A. Approval of Contracts.

#### Department of Ecology Water Meter Contracts –

There is one contract for the Department of Ecology's Water Meter program. George reviewed the program. There is a water right trust meeting scheduled at the Department of Ecology's Bellingham Field Office.

**Ed Stone moved to approve and authorize Board signature for the water meter cost-share contract for Northwest Mobile Home Park (\$1,435.62) not to exceed the funding as outlined following Ecology approval. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### B. Approval of Livestock Plans.

One Dairy Nutrient Management Plan was presented to the Board for approval. With the departure of John Gillies, NRCS does not review Dairy Nutrient Management Plans. George reported to the Board that he felt comfortable with review being limited to Chris and Chuck reviewing each other's plans. They have more proficiency and knowledge of the subject than anyone on the west coast of Washington.

There was discussion regarding the need for approval of updates to farm plans. At the recent WA Conservation Commission meeting the Board passed a motion requiring Conservation District Board approval of all farm plans, not just new ones.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to approve Dairy Nutrient Farm plans for Keith and Roxie Roosma that was reviewed and submitted for Board approval. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### C. Cost-share Policy.

George read the cost-share policy as drafted from January's board meeting.

Tim Vander Haak requested livestock cost-share funds for a soft hose distribution system. There was discussion regarding cost-share on rental ground that rotated with crop use. The producer has a lease for a certain number of acres, but the fields could change each year with crops. The other concern is that the term of lease for the property is 3 years, not five years. The Board discussed the guarantee that they would need to have in order to cost-share on equipment. There is concern that the agreement would be unsecured. The Board was agreeable to entering into a cost-share agreement with the producer if the property lease were the full 5 years or if the District were able to get 1<sup>st</sup> lien on the equipment with the bank. The bank would have to limit

their security on the equipment to a lien for 25% of the equipment value with the District having a 75% subordinate lien. The producer was going to talk with the bank regarding this matter.

**Ed Stone moved to approve the standard cost-share agreement if the cooperator provided the District a security position subordinate only to that 25% of the value of the equipment where that 25% is pledged by Mr. Vander Haak to his bank. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **VII. Other Business.**

### **A. WC Ag Preservation Committee.**

#### North Lynden Collaboration –

Henry Bierlink, Sherm Polinder and John Gillies came to talk about the north Lynden collaboration. Henry explained that the Ag Preservation Committee (APC) is a lobbying group in Whatcom County. Their main concerns are water issues; water quality and water quantity. The APC feels that the drainage based management system is the best approach to managing these water concerns. A few years ago the Whatcom Conservation District and others did some work to try to alleviate flooding issues in the north Lynden area (Fishtrap Creek watershed). This did help, but there needs to be a more lasting effect. The area should have a Watershed Improvement or Drainage District set up. The APC received \$30,000 from a third party lawsuit to do work in the Fishtrap Creek watershed. John Gillies was hired to work on the Fishtrap Creek project. John said that the group needs to have the Whatcom Conservation District on board with the process. A meeting for key landowners in the watershed has been set up to determine the next steps in the process. A community meeting is scheduled for March 15 to gain support for proceeding with Phase II of the Fishtrap Creek watershed management process. The various management district options will be explored, as well as the specifics on how to set up the District infrastructure and get funding to continue the work.

#### County initiative to protect farmland –

Henry discussed Whatcom County's initiative to protect agricultural land. There is a seat for a Whatcom Conservation District representative on the technical review committee. The committee is looking at how to get more public involvement in the process.

### **B. George Boggs.**

#### LIDAR –

The District received LIDAR (Light Detecting and Range) elevation data. The information is rough data sets, which are not user friendly at this point. Andrew Phay is working on understanding how to use the information. The tool will be used for beaver control and other projects in Fishtrap and California Creeks.

### **C. Stu Trefry, WA Conservation Commission.**

Stu passed out new Supervisor certificates to Sabina Gouran and Ed Stone.

### **D. George Boggs.**

#### Swift Creek Asbestos –

George attended the EPA presentation on the asbestos in Swift Creek. We were aware that there was magnesium, but not the potential of asbestos in Sumas River CREP projects. George wrote a letter to the WA Conservation Commission, FSA, and NRCS regarding CREP projects proposing that the obligation of the landowner to conduct maintenance be suspended. Sabina said that the Health Department will check into the risks of doing riparian maintenance work in the area. In the meantime, the Board concurred that no maintenance should be required in the effected area due to the health risks.

#### High Nitrates in Water –

Washington State Department of Health has scheduled a meeting on February 27 regarding the high levels of nitrates in the drinking water supply north of Lynden. George will attend.

Utility Installation –

George reported that Verizon was trying to install some cables under our parking lot. It was unclear whether or not they were within the easement. There is some concern that there may be damage to our utilities, because of the way work was conducted. Work has stopped at this point.

Wetlands–

- George received a scholarship for the registration and workshop fees for the Wetlands Mitigation Conference.
- Kelli Linville is interested in a Whatcom County wetlands mitigation banking project. The goal would be to make sure that local community interests were respected. The proposed project would work with the Conservation District to provide technical assistance for site selection and implementation.
- Will build wetlands delineation technical capacity. With the loss of John Gillies, there is no one in our office that does wetlands delineations. NRCS will only do delineations on its projects. Given the likely need to have delineations done, and because of here interest, Sonya Schaller will receive training.

Cost-share Resolution –

The Board tabled the cost-share resolution until the March Board meeting. A copy will be sent out with the February meeting minutes.

**E. Joy Hawley, NRCS.**

The USDA does not have an approved budget. It doesn't appear that they will until September. They are continuing to work under Resolution. Since there is no budget, they will not fill John's vacant position until further notice.

The EQIP sign-up deadline is March 16, 2007. There are 10 applicants in Whatcom County.

**VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**07-8 Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the January 10, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**07-9 Ed Stone 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.**

**07-10**

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**IX. Adjournment.**

**There being no further business before the meeting, Sabina Gouran moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:37 p.m. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Dated: March 30, 2007

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Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

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