

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2006**

**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 January 12, 2006, 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 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"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor
	Robert Barker, Associate Supervisor		Ed Stone, Landowner
	Michelle Schraeder, Landowner		Corey Copps, USDA Wildlife Services

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:01 p.m.

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

**Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the November 10 and December 8, 2005 Board meetings 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 December 2005 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:

Dec 2005 - balance  
Voucher (check) numbers 13710 through 13777 and totaling 76,636.26

Payroll check numbers:	<u>13778</u>	through	<u>13790</u>	and totaling	<u>17,990.82</u>
January 2006					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13791</u>	through	<u>13817</u>	and totaling	<u>12,038.11</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13818</u>	through	<u>13830</u>	and totaling	<u>18,011.30</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13831</u>			and totaling	<u>136.00</u>

**moved by Dick Yoder. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **VI. Action Items.**

### **A. Contracts.**

George informed the Board that the District had received a small contract from Whatcom County to provide technical assistance to "Medium Impact" farms in order to comply with the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) in the amount of \$9,487.50. This is in addition to the Drayton Harbor Small Farm Community Outreach contract for approximately \$30,000.

## **VII. Other Business.**

### **A. John Gillies, NRCS.**

#### EQIP –

John reported that NRCS was in the last few days of the EQIP sign-up for 2006. There are roughly 50 applications again this year. The local workgroup set aside \$200,000 for Forestry projects. This was to facilitate ranking.

John said that they miss Bill Bensen already. The office has been very busy. They are getting help from down south. It does not look like Bill's position will be filled anytime soon. There are two NRCS technicians to cover the entire work load from Snohomish County north to and including Whatcom County. A work load analysis was done. 45-50% of the work is in Whatcom County, which now has no technicians. NRCS has over 100 contracts that need specifications, design work, and other things done. John said that they could use two full-time people. George explained the concept of Technical Service Provider (TSP) contracts. Dick Yoder asked about TSP and how it will work for EQIP contract recipients.

### **B. Corey Copps, USDA Wildlife Services.**

Corey Copps came to introduce himself to the Board. He is taking over for John Quanz doing nuisance animal control. Corey briefly explained the contracts offered by the USDA Wildlife Services for nuisance animal control. A contract would be \$400 for 10 hours with no limit on the number of animals for beaver control. The contracts include trapping and dam removal. The CREP committee needs to address beaver issues and how to handle them. It was suggested that Corey should contact the state committee. The USDA Wildlife Services also do starling control through a contract with WC Ag Preservation Committee.

### **C. Awards Presentation.**

George showed a power point presentation of the Stone's riparian restoration project. They have been working with the District and NRCS since 1988. For seventeen years Ed Stone and Michelle Schraeder have been actively improving fish and wildlife habitat on their property along Tenmile Creek.

With financial and technical assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), a series of ponds were built. The beaver moved in as hoped and enhanced the ponds by building small dams throughout the network. The Stones planted trees and built trails to be able to access the land.

The Stones later purchased the neighboring 26 acres upstream along Tenmile Creek with the goal of restoring that area as well. In 2002 a project was initiated, which included 15.3 acres of buffer and over 600 ft. of constructed channel meander with ponds and large woody debris

placement. The project was a cooperative effort between the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA), WDFW, NRCS and WCD. Funding was provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). NSEA provided and installed the large woody debris. The Stones extended their network of access paths.

Natural processes have returned to the Stone/Schraeder property. Where there was once significant human alteration there is now a large expanse of ponds, marsh and wetland forest, which provide high value fish and wildlife habitat. There are 8 beaver dams on the main channel. Since the work has been done on their property, it is the first time that Tenmile Creek didn't dry up in the summer.

Jerry Van Dellen honored Ed Stone and Michelle as the 2005 Wildlife Steward of the Year presenting them with a District plaque. The District nominated Ed and Michelle for the 2005 WACD Wildlife Steward of the Year. At their annual convention in November 2005, the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) awarded Ed and Michelle the state-wide award. A road sign was given to the Stones for display.

#### **D. George Boggs, District Manager.**

##### Grant Review –

George gave a power point presentation on the status of our Conservation Commission grants, including deliverables and funding. John Thielbahr from WSU produced a DVD (*Dikes, Farms & Fish in Northwest Washington: From Confrontation to Collaboration and Lessons Learned*) showing three local groups working through planning processes. The North County Landowner Initiative was profiled on the DVD and was shown to the Board.

##### District Budget –

George reviewed the budget for the next six months to year. The District receives approximately 80% of our funding from grants. The riparian program is currently adequately funded. With the recently announced changes by the Commission to the Livestock funding there was a 55% shortfall in that program. Since it was such a large grant, there is approximately a 19% shortfall in the budget. George reviewed a spreadsheet of the next year's budget. Without any new sources of revenue, it contemplates staff reductions to balance the budget.

There was discussion regarding the District seeking an assessment. A stable funding source is needed to maintain District programs. John Gillies pointed out that the District has a good track record on activities and results achieved through our programs.

George discussed the need to make an amendment in deliverables for the Implementation Grant. The North County Landowner Initiative is progressing well. We have completed Phase I of the planning process. Fourteen miles of stream and ditches were cleaned this last year.

In light of that progress and due to our changing budget status that grant should be revised with staff being reassigned. This modification would provide technical assistance for the development of the sub-basin plan that would benefit all landowners in Fishtrap, not just the crop and berry farmers for whom individual conservation plans were contemplated.

**Dick Yoder moved to direct George Boggs to seek information regarding a stable funding source for the District. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Rod Visser abstaining from the voting.**

**Dick Yoder moved to request from the Conservation Commission an amendment in technical assistance deliverables for the Implementation Grant 06-04-IM-01. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

#### **VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**06-1 Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the November 10 and December 8, 2005 Board meetings be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**06-2 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.**

**06-3**

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

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**moved by Dick Yoder. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**06-4 Dick Yoder moved to direct George Boggs to seek information regarding a stable funding source for the District. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Rod Visser abstaining from the voting.**

**06-5 Dick Yoder moved to request from the Conservation Commission an amendment in technical assistance deliverables for the Implementation Grant 06-04-IM-01. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**IX. Adjournment.**

**There being no further business before the meeting, Rod Visser moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:23 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Dated: February 13, 2006

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Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

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