

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
July 28, 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 July 28, 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"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor
	Bob Barker, Associate Supervisor		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:00 noon.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Rod Visser moved that the minutes of the June 9, 2005 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

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

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

Rod Visser 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:

June 2005 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13214</u>	through	<u>13234</u>	and totaling	<u>44,338.34</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13235</u>	through	<u>13248</u>	and totaling	<u>19,641.64</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13249</u>	through	<u>13250</u>	and totaling	<u>578.63</u>
July 2005					

Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13251</u>	through	<u>13336</u>	and totaling	<u>147,610.41</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13337</u>	through	<u>13351</u>	and totaling	<u>18,444.98</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13352</u>	through	<u>13364</u>	and totaling	<u>14,195.33</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13365</u>	through	<u>13379</u>	and totaling	<u>18,063.12</u>

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

VI. Beth Chisholm.

NW Washington Fair –

The Whatcom Conservation District is going to be part of the Farming For Life exhibit during the NW Washington Fair again this year. Beth passed around for Board review and comment several sample posters that we will use at our display. She also invited the Board to work a shift at the Fair if possible.

VII. Action Items.

A. Dairy Nutrient Management Plans.

One Dairy Nutrient Management Plan was reviewed and presented for certification.

Rod Visser moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Dave Van't Zet that was reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Contracts.

Conservation Commission Grants –

The four Conservation Commission grant contracts have been submitted for approval and signature. George reviewed the budget and how it fits our Scope of Work.

Rod Visser moved to authorize Jerry Van Dellen to sign the Conservation Commission grant contracts (CREP, Fishtrap Creek – Implementation, Livestock and Puget Sound grants). Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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 the contract is then brought to the Board meeting for ratification. As per the current policy, the Board approved five contracts presented as approved at the Farm Service Agency's July 2005 County Committee meeting.

Rod Visser moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Tracy Diller (04-04-CR02:05-11), Lavern Geleyne (04-04-CR02:05-24), PUD #1 (04-04-CR02:05-16), Pointed Guns LLC (04-04-CR02:05-22), and Flushing Pheasants LLC (04-04-CR02:05-23). Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP Cultural Resources Contract –

There are two CREP applicants that need to have a cultural resource assessment 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. Two contracts were presented to the Board for approval.

Rod Visser moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contracts with Mark Hovezak for the Hulbert CREP project and the Morrow CREP project. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The issue of conducting Cultural Resource Surveys when planting trees is being looked at statewide. John reviewed Cultural Resource Assessments and costs in the light of the state and federal laws. George suggested that the Board could make a resolution to WACD to pursue state or federal setting of a regulation regarding Cultural Resource Assessments and CREP or other non-invasive activities.

Air Conditioner –

The air conditioner in the computer server room has gone out. We solicited bids for replacements from three companies. Andgar Corporation was the lowest bid.

Cornie Timmermans moved that the District accept the bid from Andgar Corporation to replace the air conditioner in the computer server room. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Scott Ditch Cultural Resource Assessment –

The Scott Ditch Drainage District wrote a letter requesting funding to do the cultural resource assessment for the Scott Ditch project. The Cultural Resource Assessment was triggered by the tree planting. George explained that the District has a grant to do Cultural Resource Assessments on projects and could seek Conservation Commission approval for the Scott Ditch project. He recommended that the Board approve the request.

Rod Visser moved to approve the contract with Drayton Archeological Research Service (Garth Baldwin) to do the Scott Ditch project Cultural Resource Assessment in the amount of \$3,107.26. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Rod Visser –

Rod received an inspection of his farm from Kirk Robinson with the Department of Ag. They are helping with inspections trying to get Jeff Canaan caught up on his workload.

Bob Barker –

George and Bob went to the Conservation Commission Board meeting in Moses Lake.

Bob attended the Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) training in June at Sleeping Lady, Leavenworth. Bob reported on the presentation by Todd Murray (WSU Extension) on fly data and milk production. It was informative. Bob also reported on the presentation by Shabtai Bittman (Ag Canada) regarding ammonia release and ag smog. Bob explained what Ag smog is and how it is formed. It is a concern in the Frasier Valley.

B. George Boggs.

Air Quality –

George mentioned that air quality is a concern that was mentioned at the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Air Quality meetings. At the NASCA meeting George attended in Colorado a NRCS employee explained that ammonia and dust are air quality problems in California. Frank Easter and George are working on the air quality issues in Washington.

Facility Issues –

Painting - A request for bids to do painting on portions of the building was sent out. Only one bid was received. The bid seemed very high so we are going to request more bids for painting.

Mailboxes – Mr. Huizenga owns the strip of land by the back of our property. He objects to the installation of mailboxes that don't look good. He would prefer a single metal box. This would cost \$1,500 or so. We need send around a flyer about the situation to see if there is any interest to pursue installation of new mailboxes.

North County –

Whatcom County was able to get the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) for Bender, Benson and Depot Roads and will begin cleaning next week. The HPA for Double Ditch is nearly complete. Design work on a fish project for Fishtrap Creek at Assink Road is being done. The project would allow exemption from some of the process and NSEA is willing to take the project on. The next meeting of the North County group will be in September after the cleaning is done. At that time the group will need to begin to develop a plan for intermediate and long-term strategies for addressing flooding, fish and flows.

Employee Manual –

George discussed updating the employee manual. He received some materials from an attorney regarding necessary information to have in an employee manual. He will review and make recommendations for updates. Since keeping good and current employee manuals is a widespread issue, George also spoke with Mark Clark regarding the Conservation Commission making a standardized “starter” manual for Conservation Districts to adopt and modify as needed. The template would be updated with the essentials by an attorney when necessary. The Washington Governmental Entity Pool (WGEP) is scheduled to have a meeting on manuals in October. George asked if the Board was interested in attending.

Committees –

George reviewed the committees he is participating in.

George participated in the Dairy Federation’s 2020 Visioning meeting. He talked about his perceptions on environmental challenges and potential sources of support for producers. It was interesting that the breakout session main topic for environmental regulations table discussion was red tape associated with expansion/creation of dairies.

George also participated in the WA Department of Agriculture’s Livestock Development Oversight Committee (LDOC) meeting last week in Olympia.

George was asked to be on the Homeland Security Committee. The Board thought that this would be a good idea.

Water Quality Testing –

There was discussion regarding water quality study results in Scott Ditch and other areas. There was discussion regarding archiving of nutrients. The nutrients don’t necessarily die off when first thought. Impacts on testing results due to ambient nutrient counts and counts coming into Washington from north of the border were discussed. Other questions that need to be answered include; can fecal coliform reproduce? Can fecal coliform survive or do they archive? US Geological Survey (USGS) has a proposal to do source id testing.

Farm plan management and/or storage issues were also discussed.

C. John Gillies.

NRCS Employees –

John informed the Board that Joy Hawley was hired as the new Soil Conservationist. She is scheduled to begin work around the beginning of September.

The August Board meeting was cancelled since the July meeting was so late in the month. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2005.

IX. Record of Board Actions.

05-55 Rod Visser moved that the minutes of the June 9, 2005 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

05-56 Rod Visser 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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X. Adjournment.

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

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

Dated: October 19, 2005

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant