

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2008**

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 9, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Yoder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabina Gouran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Heller
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Terry Lenssen		

Also in attendance were:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs, District Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alex Hall, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Robert Barker, Associate Supervisor

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Dick Yoder as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 6:32 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Joe Heller moved that the minutes of the June 11, 2008 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report.

The financial report was mailed to the Board with their draft minutes from the June 2008 meeting.

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

Sabina Gouran moved to approve the Financial Report. Joe Heller 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 08 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16043</u>	through	<u>16065</u>	and totaling	<u>37,836.97</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16066</u>	through	<u>16079</u>	and totaling	<u>24,463.73</u>
July 2008					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>16080</u>	through	<u>16088</u>	and totaling	<u>4,290.40</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>16089</u>	through	<u>16102</u>	and totaling	<u>24,685.21</u>

moved by Sabina Gouran. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Budget Introduction –

The 2008-09 draft budget was passed out and briefly reviewed. There were some questions. The Board inquired about the status of the rental contract and the impact on the budget. There was also a suggestion about conducting a building energy use audit.

WCD Ford 250 –

There was discussion regarding the potential to trade in or sell the Ford 250 crew-cab and get a smaller truck or car. It was suggested that maybe the Conservation Commission could supplement the cost of a Prius. There was discussion regarding getting a fuel efficient vehicle that would be big enough to haul equipment and people. The Board directed George to see how much money the District could get for the Ford 250 and decide about another vehicle later. It was decided that the District would only sell if the price was fair and adequate to get another more economical vehicle.

Terry Lenssen authorized George to see how much money the District could get for the Ford 250. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

WA Conservation Commission (WSCC) Grant Addendums –

Grant addendums showing budget and scopes of work for FY 2009 for the CREP Technical Assistance, Livestock Technical Assistance, Implementation and Puget Sound grants were reviewed and approved.

Sabina Gouran moved to approve the WSCC grant addendums for FY 2009 for the CREP TA, Livestock TA, Implementation and Puget Sound grants. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Schneider Creek Fish Passage & Restoration Project –

The District received funding for the Schneider Creek Fish Passage & Restoration Project from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The match for the project will be provided by Drainage Improvement District #4 (DID #4). A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the District and DID #4 is needed.

Sabina Gouran moved to authorize Dick Yoder to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with Drainage Improvement District #4 for the Schneider Creek Project. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The design for the flood gate is a proprietary design, so the District is seeking approval from NFWF to do a sole source contract with Nehalem Marine Mfg. Upon approval by NFWF, a contract will be signed.

Sabina Gouran moved to authorize Dick Yoder to sign a contract with Nehalem Marine Mfg for flood gate installation on the Schneider Creek Project. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

WC Riparian Re-vegetation Contract –

George gave some background on the Riparian Re-vegetation contract with Whatcom County. The contract will continue the Whatcom County Riparian Restoration contract that expired on June 30, 2008. The District wrote a Department of Ecology grant to continue the program of riparian re-vegetation in conjunction with Drainage Improvement Districts. It was funded by the Department of Ecology. The District received a copy of the contract for signature pending final approval from all sources at Whatcom County.

Joe Heller moved to authorize Dick Yoder to sign the Whatcom County Riparian Revegetation contract. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Livestock Cost-share Application –

There is one producer that is requesting livestock cost-share. The Board approved the applications subject to availability of funds, not to exceed \$25,000 per contract.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve a Livestock Cost-share contract with ViAcres Dairy (Jeremy Visser) at 75% of actual costs not to exceed \$25,000 subject to availability of funds. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Alex Hall, NRCS.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) –

Alex reported that NRCS had received 6 complete applications at the time of the Board meeting. The sign-up deadline is July 15, 2008.

More funds were given to Washington for 2008 EQIP, so one more contract got funded.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) –

NRCS has received 5 applications for WHIP projects in Whatcom County. There is uncertainty regarding funding for WHIP projects. Alex explained that WHIP can also be used to fund environmental practices. The participants do not have to be ag producers. Bob Barker asked some questions about the WHIP program. Alex said that all applications are for culvert replacement projects.

Technical Service Provider (TSP) –

The TSP contract has been finalized to run through December 1, 2008. It is for approximately 90% of Chris and Bill's time.

NRCS Security –

All Whatcom Conservation District employees have completed the computer training and security. Alex thanked the Board for their and their staff's cooperation on this matter.

Alex informed that Board that NRCS staff had to go to Seattle to get a uniform id card.

NRCS Staff Training –

Alex completed the wetlands delineation course put on by the Army Corps of Engineers. He will continue to do training that will allow him to wetlands delineations.

Joy has received notification that she will get certified for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning (CNMP).

EQIP Local Work Group –

The EQIP local work group will be meeting to look at the cost list for the next EQIP sign up. Ag plastic recycling is a potential to offer an incentive payment for. Alex recommended that a couple of Supervisors should meet with staff to discuss eligible practices and potential practices to make recommendations to the local work group for next year's list. Dick and Terry agreed to be on the committee and meet with District and NRCS staff on July 29 at 1:00 p.m.

B. Supervisor Report.

Joe Heller –

Joe met Sonya Schaller out at the Bennett Woodland Farms CREP project on Nooksack. The river took out about 3 acres of land prior to installation.

Terry Lenssen –

Terry attended the Farm Friends tour. There was discussion about who attended the tour. It was a good presentation. The Bertrand Watershed Improvement Districts will supplement well water into the stream for irrigation this summer. There are now two WIDs in the area, Bertrand and North Lynden. Evidently Canada has dammed the stream north of the border, which is reducing the flow in Bertrand Creek.

There was discussion regarding water rights. George gave an overview of water rights law and tribal rights. Under case law, Tribes have implied reservation of water rights in an amount necessary for their reasonable use. This right is paramount to those acquired subsequent to the treaty. If this isn't being respected, then they could request the Department of Ecology to enforcing water rights according to seniority. This is the prospect if an agreement can not be reached by the tribes and landowners through the WID.

The North Lynden WID is dealing with too much storm and flood water. Reichart & Ebe is doing the engineering and Joannie Greenburg is doing the water flow modeling for the North Lynden WID.

C. George Boggs.

DID Manual –

George is working on a draft Drainage Improvement District manual. Once the manual has been reviewed and approved. The manual will allow DIDs to draft a plan which will allow them to get a 5-year Hydraulic Permit Authority to conduct maintenance activities on modified watercourses. It will also provide guidance to landowners on how clean watercourses without getting a fine or penalty from Ecology.

Meetings –

George attended the Salmon Staff Team meeting. The group recommends policy that could affect our programs. The CREP program is very effective to show the team that shows a lot of projects.

Green House Gas Carbon Trading Workshop meeting in Moses Lake was a disappointment. There are little in the way of resources to support the effort. George will attend the next meeting via video conference.

Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham have formed a new committee to deal with fuel availability issues. George has applied to be on the committee. The Committee will address the looming energy shortage as the supplies of oil declines.

George met with representatives from Whatcom County Planning and Development Services (WCPDS) regarding the CPAL program. They are support the program and the County Council likes the concept of helping people. One impediment to participation is a fee of \$200 per plan. It would take an action of the County Council to remove. George gave WCPDS the King County program as an example of incentives for participation. There are building permit discounts for landowners who chose to work with the Conservation District and develop a plan.

Staff Reporting –

A sample graph representation of program status for the CREP program was passed out for Board review. The graph will show the number of contacts made, the resulting contracts approved, a demographic of the interest shown and how the people were contacted. This information should be able to streamline the efforts of staff to get the maximum return for their efforts. Dick suggested that those individuals that showed an interest should receive a follow-up postcard to keep the interest active. Some clarification of the information being presented by the graphs is needed.

The Board showed an interest in the information and brochures that would be available at the NW Washington Fair.

Staffing –

George reported that there were 5 applicants for the Resource Coordinator position. He gave a few highlights. George formed a committee to interview and will get the candidate information to all supervisors for their review.

Oregon Air Quality Task Force –

The Oregon Air Quality Task Force's recommendations were released. George briefly discussed.

Correspondence –

George reviewed some of the correspondence that the District received.

Whatcom County has received some funds to use on wetlands mitigation banking.

The Hearing Examiner judgment has come out. The landowner was found to have violated provisions of the Critical Areas Ordinance protective of wetlands. The decision has been appealed to the County Counsel. The landowner may have to replant trees. The Board discussion the potential impact and whether the landowner could alternatively pay into a wetlands mitigation bank.

George asked the Board what the best way to disseminate information to them is. Most of them prefer to receive emails. George will give weekly updates and send links to more detailed information.

NW Washington Fair –

The District was asked to advertise at the Farming for Life exhibit. There was discussion regarding the District being in the building or having an independent booth.

Sabina Gouran moved to advertise at the Farming for Life exhibit for \$500 out of the education fund. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

08-57 Joe Heller moved that the minutes of the June 11, 2008 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

08-58 Sabina Gouran moved to approve the Financial Report. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

08-59

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- 08-65 Terry Lenssen moved to approve a Livestock Cost-share contract with ViAcres Dairy (Jeremy Visser) at 75% of actual costs not to exceed \$25,000 subject to availability of funds. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 08-66 Sabina Gouran moved to advertise at the Farming for Life exhibit for \$500 out of the education fund. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Sabina Gouran moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Dated: August 28, 2008

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____