

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2004**

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 June 10, 2004, at 12:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Barker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rod Visser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cornelius Timmermans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Randy Kinley		

Also in attendance were:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs, District Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Gillies, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Bas Scholten, Assoc. Supervisor

III. Presiding Officers

Robert Barker as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:03 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Jerry Van Dellen moved that the minutes of the May 13, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Treasurer's Report.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented a Financial Report containing Income and Expenses, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Analysis effective June 10, 2004 a copy of which is attached.

Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Review and approval of payment of District invoices and incurred expenses, as listed in the Treasurer's Report. 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:

May 2004- balance				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12166</u>	through	<u>12180</u>	and totaling <u>\$ 12,250.12</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>12181</u>	through	<u>12194</u>	and totaling <u>\$ 18,503.92</u>
June 2004				
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12195</u>	through	<u>12207</u>	and totaling <u>\$ 24,812.52</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>12208</u>	through	<u>12221</u>	and totaling <u>\$ 18,534.72</u>
Voucher (check numbers)	<u>12222</u>		<u>12234</u>	<u>\$ 8,040.50</u>

moved by Jerry Van Dellen. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Budget.

The draft 2004-2005 budget was given to the Board at the last meeting for review. George explained that there were no capital expenditures included in the budget. There was discussion regarding medical coverage for staff as outlined in the budget. The current policy for medical coverage following our renewal on May 1, 2004 was to give full coverage for employee and dependants for full time employees, with full coverage for employee only for part-time employees with the exception that new hires (as of January 1, 2004) would receive full coverage for employee only. Prior to our medical insurance renewal date exceptions to the previously stated rules were not allowed by the insurance company. This rule change affected only one employee. The draft budget proposed full coverage for employee and dependants for all full-time employees and employee only coverage for part-time employees. After some discussion the board decided to adopt the budget with the medical coverage as presented (no variation for new hires) with the intention to look into ways to control medical premiums for next year.

Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve the 2004-2005 Budget as presented with employee medical coverage as outlined (no variation for new hires). Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

George suggested that staff may wish to be proactive in finding ways to save funds for medical premiums for the next enrollment period. Staff will discuss at their monthly staff meeting.

B. Long Range Plan.

George had mailed a memo to the Board outlining activities and grant status of the Districts program areas in view of Long Range planning. Bob discussed some changes with the Dairy and CREP programs which could affect future funding opportunities. Bob pointed out that although the Dairy Nutrient Management Plans have been written nutrient management concerns still exist. The Conservation District needs to determine how to be a part of the solution. The Long Range Plan will help the District focus on new grant and other funding opportunities to pursue.

Areas of concern/interest for the Dairy program include methane and air quality issues. Water quality issues continue to be a major factor. The District has staff with expertise in soil and nutrient issues. The potential to contract with Whatcom County to provide their knowledge with water quality issues was discussed. Phosphorus and Potassium issues are looming. They will also need to be addressed by farmers and landowners. Rod expressed the need for the District to maintain a strong dairy presence. Jerry suggested that there is a need to look at water quality issues in relation to all commercial agriculture. The option of developing a Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) was brought up. The District, County and other agencies need to generate a more global examination of water quality factors in the Nooksack Watershed, including dairy and other potential contributors to pollution.

Whatcom County is updating their Critical Areas Ordinance. It was suggested that if the District were to be included in the CAO again that the District would ask for funds for the planning process.

C. Action Items.

1. Approval of DOE Tenmile Creek Grant Extension.

The District's Tenmile Creek Riparian Restoration Project grant # G0200268 was scheduled to end June 30, 2004. There are some funds remaining in this grant. The District asked the Department of Ecology (DOE) for and received a year extension to provide assistance to Dorie Belisle.

Rod Visser moved to authorize Bob Barker to sign the grant extension for the Tenmile Creek Grant # G0200268. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2. CREP Maintenance Policy.

The Conservation Commission adopted a CREP maintenance policy. Bob explained that this policy brought our current policy in line with the Conservation Commission's. Bob explained that there is a provision that if CREP maintenance costs need to exceed the \$1,500 limit per acre the Board could approve and send the matter on to the Conservation Commission for approval.

Rod Visser moved to adopt the new CREP Maintenance Policy. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Approval of 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, George can sign for the District. The contract is then brought to the Board meeting for ratification. As a matter of paperwork, the District has several CREP contracts to approve.

Rod Visser moved to ratify the list of CREP contracts. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

02-04-CR02: 04-155	John	Dekeyser
02-04-CR02: 03-136	Charles	Petersen
02-04-CR02: 03-151	Matt	Cook

4. Approval of Small Farm Plan.

N₃ completed a small farm plan for Lisa and Wes Wertman.

Rod Visser moved to approve and sign the small farm plan for Lisa and Wes Wertman. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. SRF Loan – Manure Digester.

Chris Clark met with Joanne Polayes, DOE Grants Officer, regarding the District's Manure Digester SRF Loan proposal. The loan contract with Ecology should be signed by August. The loan would be 1.5% for 20 years. The Board agreed to negotiate a contract with the DOE. The District will develop a loan application package for participants.

Rod Visser moved to approve that the District negotiate the SRF Loan contract with the Department of Ecology. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. CIDMP.

George explained that the District has a contract with the Department of Ag to develop a Comprehensive Irrigation District Management Plan (CIDMP) in Bertrand Creek. The Bertrand Watershed Improvement District (WID) was created. The District's contract with the contractor expired on May 31, 2004. The work had not been completed as forecast. All parties met in Olympia on Tuesday, June 8, 2004. The WID is concerned that the CIDMP may not mesh with the WIRA planning process. The WID is currently negotiating with the Lummi Nation to create a management plan. The consultant has said that they need cooperation to complete the CIDMP. There is concern that the CIDMP will affect the WIRA process that has been in the works for 6 years. George suggests that the District should accept a release from their contract with the Department of Ag. The WID can replace the

District in the contract and provide the necessary deliverables. The WID would then enter into another contract with the consultant to complete the project with funding from WSDA.

Rod Visser moved that the District seek a substitution and effect the release to the Washington State Department of Ag CIDMP 04-14-01 contract for the District. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Other Business.

1. Federal Offices Closed.

The federal offices will be closed June 11, 2004 in memoriam of Ronald Reagan. As per the District's Personnel Policy it is at the discretion of the District Board and Manager to grant any state or federally granted leave days. State agencies are not taking leave that day. After some discussion the Board decided that the District would remain open on June 11, 2004.

2. Bob Barker.

PMC Update – The Whatcom Conservation District sent out notice to individuals that bought plants at our plant sale that the Western red cedar and Douglas fir trees will be replaced. The WACD Plant Materials Center also sent out notice that they would replace the dead trees. At the last Conservation Commission meeting we were informed that the FSA and state will pay ½ each of the cost of a replant of the dead trees from the WACD PMC. The WACD Plant Materials Center sent out notice that they would replace the dead trees.

CREP – Rod mentioned that CREP needs some positive PR with farmers. There was discussion that the current CREP program ends in 2007. A CREP 2 is being worked on. The new CREP would have a water quality component. George reported that he had spoken with Jay Gordon, WA Dairy Federation executive. He thought the agricultural caucuses would support a CREP 2 if additional practices were included.. There was discussion of the CREP finances.

3. Jerry Van Dellen.

Surface Mining Committee – Jerry reported on meetings that he has attended. The committee seems to be stuck in the details of trying to determine gravel usage and needs.

The Board asked to have staff presentations on the next month's meeting agenda.

The Board offered George condolences on the passing away of his father.

VII. Record of Board Actions.

04-34 Jerry Van Dellen moved that the minutes of the May 13, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-35

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moved by Jerry Van Dellen. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- 04-36 Jerry Van Dellen moved to approve the 2004-2005 Budget as presented with employee medical coverage as outlined (no variation for new hires). Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 04-37 Rod Visser moved to authorize Bob Barker to sign the grant extension for the Tenmile Creek Grant # G0200268. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 04-38 Rod Visser moved to adopt the new CREP Maintenance Policy. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 04-39 Rod Visser moved to ratify the list of CREP contracts. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.
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|--------------------|---------|----------|
| 02-04-CR02: 04-155 | John | Dekeyser |
| 02-04-CR02: 03-136 | Charles | Petersen |
| 02-04-CR02: 03-151 | Matt | Cook |
- 04-40 Rod Visser moved to approve and sign the small farm plan for Lisa and Wes Wertman. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 04-41 Rod Visser moved to approve that the District negotiate the SRF Loan contract with the Department of Ecology. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 04-42 Rod Visser moved that the District seek a substitution and effect the release to the Washington State Department of Ag CIDMP 04-14-01 contract for the District. Jerry Van Dellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Dated: July 21, 2004

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant