

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
June 14, 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 June 14, 2006, at 12:15 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"/>	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"/>	John Gillies, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant		Ken Mills, CRM

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:15 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the May 10, 2006 Board meeting 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 May meeting.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, briefly reviewed the financial report and asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report. There were no questions.

Ed Stone moved to approve the Financial Report. Dick Yoder 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:

May 2006 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14087</u>	through	<u>14110</u>	and totaling	<u>22,646.89</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14111</u>	through	<u>14122</u>	and totaling	<u>16,700.17</u>
June 2006					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>14123</u>	through	<u>14141</u>	and totaling	<u>13,107.53</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>14142</u>	through	<u>14153</u>	and totaling	<u>16,697.67</u>

Voucher number 14154 and totaling 22.66
moved by Ed Stone. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

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 plans. 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 two contracts.

George reviewed the CREP contract process. Maps of the projects were passed out for review.

Joyce Jimerson moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Oliver Schantz (04-04-CR02:06-01) and Gurbax Gill (06-04-CR01:06-05). Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP Cultural Resources Assessments –

There is one CREP applicant that needs to have cultural resource assessment done on their proposed project. 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. The contract for the Dostal CREP project was presented to the Board for approval.

Dick Yoder moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contract with Equinox Research & Consulting (Kelly Bush) for the Doug and Tanya Dostal CREP project in the amount of \$2,501.25. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pioneers in Conservation Grant

The District received the Campbell Creek Wetlands Habitat Enhancement Pioneers in Conservation Grant contract for funding in the amount of \$18,000 with \$9,090 match requirement. The project is to do some in-stream work in conjunction with CREP and other riparian work.

Dick Yoder moved to approve and sign the Campbell Creek Wetlands Habitat Enhancement Pioneers in Conservation Grant contract number Pioneers-011 in the amount of \$18,000. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Methane Digester SRF Loan Contract –

The District received an Amendment for Agreement L0500003 Whatcom Dairy Manure Methane Project to zero out the contract amount.

Dick Yoder moved to approve and sign Amendment #1 for Agreement L0500003 Whatcom Dairy Manure Methane Project to zero out the contract amount and release the money back to the Department of Ecology. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Annual Plan of Work.

The Board reviewed the draft Annual Plan of Work. It was pointed out that the color code key was left off the draft.

There was discussion regarding gravel and natural resources. Jerry is on the County's Surface Mining Advisory Committee. He reported on the gravel analysis report that was completed. They estimate that there is 10 years worth of gravel reserves left in the County. The thought of looking at the gravel deposits in the Nooksack River was discussed. This could help with flooding issues

as well as address the declining gravel reserves. This may also release the pressure of developing gravel pits on farm lands.

John Gillies reported on a USGS flood plain dynamics paper he had read. According to the paper, it was determined that if a river is diked and rip rapped then you need to address the gravel build-up in the river. It is problematic to ignore the gravel build up, as this lead to flooding problems. However an engineering study would need to be done addressing gravel removal from the river with benefit to fish. It was decided that the Board would like to look at studies regarding controlled system rivers and gravel extraction. The pluses and minuses should be reviewed.

There was also discussion regarding the Nooksack River meander. Jerry gave an example of the gouging that has occurred on his property. John said that this was also a gradient issue. Whatcom County is scheduled to set meander limits for the Nooksack River. They are looking at how they can control the meander.

It was decided that the Board would like to look at overall management of the Nooksack River with all factors involved. They would like to do a literature review and connect with Whatcom County River and Flood regarding the meander plan. The District would like to be involved in management of the Nooksack River issues. To that end the District would like to become more knowledgeable on the issue and have further Board discussions regarding the various issues of river management.

Dick Yoder moved to approve and adopt the Annual Plan of Work. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Joyce Jimerson –

Joyce is part of the Community Awareness and Support subcommittee of the Ag Preservation Roundtable. She will send a copy of the minutes to the other Board members.

B. George Boggs, District Manager Report.

Budget –

The District is likely to receive \$30,000 from Whatcom County to develop a moderate impact farm planning process. George discussed the Low Impact planning process and the Tips Booklet that the District developed.

The District will receive \$240,000 for technical assistance funding under the CREP program for Fiscal Year 2007.

There is a potential that the District may receive some additional funds for the Livestock program. This should become certain at the Conservation Commission July meeting.

George discussed staffing and the revised funding situation. The District will rehire Sonya in August if the funding comes through as anticipated.

Plan Approval Process –

George explained that new tax exempt laws regarding Dairy nutrient management involve the District approving producer's farm plans. There was some discussion as to what the "farm plan" was.

CREP –

Whatcom and Skagit Conservation Districts will be hosting a CREP tour for some Office of Financial Management and other representatives from Olympia on June 23rd.

The District is scheduling a mediation meeting with District, FSA and NRCS staff on August 2 and 3. We are trying to work out some of the conflicts experience with the CREP program.

District Automobile –

The white K Car has a cracked head. It is no longer drivable at this point. George reviewed the Districts options. It can be “fixed” at some cost and anticipating further problems due to the “fix.” The District could liquidate the vehicle and purchase a used or new vehicle. After some discussion the Board decided to liquidate the vehicle and purchase a new one. Price limits were set for purchasing a used or new vehicle.

Dick Yoder moved to authorize George to liquidate the K car and purchase a used vehicle for \$6,000 or a new one for \$12,000 of District funds. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. John Gillies, NRCS Report.

EQIP –

John reported that NRCS is finished writing the EQIP contracts. Whatcom County received 7 contracts for approximately \$800,000. The average contract in Whatcom County is \$120,000 for \$500 per acre to implement. NRCS is working on getting specs and stuff ready for the spring construction.

NRCS Staff –

Marty Rankin was hired to fill the position in the Lynden Field office. Marty still has obligations from King County north, so there is still a staff shortage.

Wetland Violation –

John reported the first wetland violation for draining a wetland. The landowner has to do mitigation and their payments have been suspended until the matter is fixed. John informed the Board that FSA does do spot checks on wetland delineations. This is how the violation was found. If a producer is found to be in violation their federal program payments are cut off.

D. Ken Mills, CRM.

Ken Mills introduced himself to the Board and briefly discussed the CRM program.

E. Other.

Nooksack Casino –

George sent a letter to the Nooksack Tribe regarding the Nooksack Casino trying to make peace. He reviewed the content and who received a copy of the letter.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

06-30 Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the May 10, 2006 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

06-31 Ed Stone moved to approve the Financial Report. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

06-32

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IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Joyce Jimerson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:17 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Dated: July 19, 2006

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____