

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
June 8, 2011**

**I. Time and Place of Meeting.**

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) was held at the Ag Service Center, 6975 Hannegan Rd, Lynden, Washington on June 8, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Attendance and Quorum.**

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

Larry Davis  
Dick Yoder

Ed Stone

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director  
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant

Alex Hall, NRCS staff

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

The meeting began at 7:00 with two supervisors present. Absent: Joe Heller and Terry Lenssen.

George gave those present a brief background on the budget information received to date.

Ed Stone arrived making a quorum. Larry Davis, Acting as Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

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

**Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the May 11, 2011 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 May meeting.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented 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 2011 - balance  
Voucher (check) numbers 18589 through 18613 and totaling 18,844.76

Payroll check numbers:	<u>18614</u>	through	<u>18625</u>	and totaling	<u>25,959.65</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>18626</u>	through	<u>18632</u>	and totaling	<u>12,461.96</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>18633</u>	through	<u>18644</u>	and totaling	<u>25,855.37</u>

**Moved by Ed Stone. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## VI. Action Items.

### A. Draft Inter-local Agreement with Washington State Conservation Commission & Department of Ecology.

George was asked to assist Skagit Conservation District in negotiating and revising its current MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Department of Ecology.

He recommends that the agreement take the form of an Inter-local Agreement. Conservation Districts are an agency and should have equal status with other state agencies. The Inter-local agreement will have more specifics regarding the relationship between Ecology and the Conservation District. There was some discussion regarding some ideas to be included in the agreement. A draft will be ready for Board review to get comments to John Larson, WACD Executive Director.

There was discussion regarding the need for a special meeting at the end of the month to address the budget and staffing. Feedback on the Inter-local agreement would be given at that time.

### B. Letter to Director of Ecology.

The Board discussed drafting a response to the letter received from the Director of the Department of Ecology in response to Sam Crawford's letter encouraging the Governor to fund Conservation Districts. It was decided to draft a document with specific examples that will be approved at the next meeting.

### C. Letter to Conservation Commission & WACD Leadership Regarding Budget Allocation

George reviewed the budget funding received by the Washington State Conservation Commission and how it breaks down per program. There are questions on how it will be allocated by the Conservation Commission to Conservation Districts.

One recommendation was to strengthen the consistency of planning among conservation districts. Two dairy farmers and the Dairy Federation's consultant attended the last Board meeting to talk about Whatcom Dairy Nutrient Farm Plans and the difference between Whatcom and other counties. The Board suggested that Conservation District planners have peer review similar to NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). This would address inconsistencies in planning and would be similar to job approval authority.

The Board directed George to draft a letter regarding budget allocations agreeing to the proposed allocation for the water quality funding, support for a program to affect consistency among conservation district plans, pursue enough funds to continue our successful CREP and enough Livestock funds to catch up with the backlog of work.

## VII. Other Business.

### A. Supervisor Reports.

Dick Yoder – Dick attended a meeting in Skagit with around thirty people hosted the Skagit Conservation District. Some in attendance stated that Ecology was coming onto people's property without invitation or permission. It's upsetting people. Dick said that this was contrary to a State Court of Appeals ruling that Ecology cannot come on to property for a "potential threat."

**B. Alex Hall, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).**

NRCS Archeologist – The State Archeologist is coming to the Lynden Field Office this week to review the high priority projects so that they can be approved. Alex explained the review process as he knew it. Test holes are bored about every 100 feet along the path of a pipeline.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – NRCS staff are busy with EQIP. A new task order for Chris' and Bill's services for July through November was submitted.

NRCS staff are working with two, small farm organic producers. A dairy producer backed out of the organic program, as it is geared toward small farms. Waste storage and transfer are not eligible practices under the organic program. It would be helpful if the practice list were standard for all EQIP programs. The dairy would have been able to utilize the program. NRCS staff has one month to get a signed contract from the applicants.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – There is one contract for adaptive management. They need a signature of Authority of Entity by Resolution to complete the contract.

State Agronomist – Alex explained that all state positions need to be approved at the national level. The state agronomist position did not get approved to be filled.

Asbestos Meeting – Alex and Joy Hawley attended the Sumas Science meeting regarding asbestos at Western Washington University. Alex found it interesting, since he has not been following the issue to date. The take home message appeared to be that "no level is safe."

**C. George Boggs, Executive Director.**

Applied Risk Management (ARM) Project Meeting – Chris Clark, Nichole Embertson and George attended a meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle regarding the ARM project. EPA hosted the meeting and had four people there. Also in attendance were four Department of Ecology staff. George reported that Chris and Nichole did a good job of presenting the project. Ecology remains concerned but, the project can go forward.

Region 10 EPA formed an Animal Feeding Operation/Confined Feeding Operation (AFO/CAFO) committee to work on these issues including comment to the new general permit. Whatcom Conservation District staff is participating in this group.

Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC) – George attended a teleconference in preparation of the upcoming committee meeting.

Ag Regulations on Critical Areas Subcommittee – The Subcommittee has scheduled a meeting with residents of the Brown/Malloy neighborhood next Thursday. The Ruckelshaus Bill has passed the Washington State Legislature. George explained that the District could have a significant role to play. The voluntary incentive stewardship process envisioned by the Subcommittee could part of the Bill required work plan

Budget – George gave a rough outline of what happened with the budget and the potential allocation of funds by the Washington Conservation Commission. This may leave us with tough decisions about staff with very short notice. George reviewed the current sick and annual leave policies. There was discussion of allowing employees to draw upon banked leave should furloughs be required. The Board expressed that they would like to keep all personnel, if possible.

**Ed Stone moved to approve use by affected employees of accumulated leave (sick and annual) to offset the impacts of being furloughed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**11-41 Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the May 11, 2011 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**11-42 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.**

**11-43**

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

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**Moved by Ed Stone. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**11-44 Ed Stone moved to approve use by affected employees of accumulated leave (sick and annual) to offset the impacts of being furloughed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**IX. Adjournment.**

**There being no further business before the meeting, Ed Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Dated: July 18, 2011

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Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

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