

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2005**

I. Time and Place of Meeting.

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Whatcom Conservation District was held at the Ag Service Center, 6975 Hannegan Rd, Lynden, Washington on June 9, 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"/>	Richard 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		Robert Barker, Associate Supervisor
	Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:10 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Rod Visser moved that the minutes of the April 14, 2005 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 draft minutes from the April meeting.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, reviewed the financial report.

Rod Visser moved to approve the Financial Report. Cornie Timmermans 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:

April 2005 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13079</u>	through	<u>13101</u>	and totaling	<u>17,074.45</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13102</u>	through	<u>13114</u>	and totaling	<u>17,936.61</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13115</u>			and totaling	<u>1,835.00</u>
May 2005					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13116</u>	through	<u>13129</u>	and totaling	<u>51,306.82</u>

Payroll check numbers:	<u>13130</u>	through	<u>13142</u>	and totaling	<u>17,882.21</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13143</u>	through	<u>13154</u>	and totaling	<u>17,196.07</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13155</u>	through	<u>13168</u>	and totaling	<u>18,880.50</u>
June 2005					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>13169</u>	through	<u>13199</u>	and totaling	<u>40,686.18</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>13200</u>	through	<u>13213</u>	and totaling	<u>19,624.21</u>

moved by Rod Visser. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Supervisor Matters.

Richard (Dick) Yoder expressed an interest in filling the vacant elected position on the Board demonstrating such by his presence at the meeting.

Rod Visser moved to appoint Richard Yoder to fill the vacant Supervisor position on the Whatcom Conservation District Board for the remainder of the term to end March 2007. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Small Farm Plans.

Small farm plans were submitted for approval and signature.

Rod Visser moved that the Board approve and sign small farm plans for Mark Chase, Kim and Jim Grams, Lynn Thordarson, Eric and Robin Hitz and Ron Crabtree. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Dairy.

John Gillies reviewed acres and practices for EQIP farm plans for several people that received contracts. There are 15 EQIP contracts to be completed this year for a total of \$1 million.

Cornie Timmermans moved that the Board approve and sign EQIP contract plans for Brian Postma, Doug Bajema, and Eagle Mill Farm (Rod DeJong). Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Rod Visser moved to delegate signature authority for EQIP contracts to the District Chair (Jerry Van Dellen) and George Boggs subject to report and concurrence of those contracts at the next Board meeting. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Approval of Contracts.

CREP –

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 two contracts presented as approved at the Farm Service Agency's April 2005 County Committee meeting.

Cornie Timmermans moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Edward Mohs (04-04-CR02:05-15) and Harry Pelleboer (04-04-CR02:05-01). Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CREP Cultural Resources Contract –

There is one CREP applicant that needs to have a cultural resource assessment done on his 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. One contract was presented to the Board for approval.

Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contract with Drayton Archaeological Research Services (Garth Baldwin) for \$1,542.12 for the Koehler Project. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tenmile Watershed Landowner Agreements -

Department of Ecology and US Fish and Wildlife grants require a "Landowner Agreement" to do riparian restoration work. These agreements outline the restoration project and terms of the agreement. Two agreements were presented to the Board for approval.

Rod Visser moved that the District enter into and sign the Landowner Agreements for Kerry & Heather Heaps and Eric Sundstrom & Sandra Kwan to do riparian restoration projects in the Tenmile Watershed. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Contracts -

The new Puget Sound grant application was reviewed and approved.

Rod Visser moved to approve and sign the 2006 Puget Sound grant application. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

George reviewed the new Conservation Commission grant applications for the Implementation, Puget Sound, CREP and Livestock programs.

VII. Other Business.

A. John Gillies.

CSP -

John talked to the Board about the Conservation Security Program (CSP). This program rewards landowners that have "done the right thing" for the environment. NRCS will need to meet with local field reps to find out how to help their producers meet the basic soil and water quality parameters. In order to qualify to participate in CSP, producers must meet nutrient management, pest management and water quality requirements. Producers will need to document application records and soil and manure tests. George suggested that we could put CSP elements and information into our livestock newsletter, *In Balance*, for distribution.

B. George Boggs.

Salmon Safe -

George discussed the Salmon Safe label. George and Chuck met with a representative for the Salmon Safe label. He suggested that the white paper of the program be sent to Sherm Polinder. Cornie said that this sounds similar to a program in Wisconsin.

Medical Insurance -

The District's renewal date for employee medical insurance through Regence Blueshield was May 1st. An increase in medical premiums was proposed. The Board ratified that the District cover the increase in employee medical premiums.

Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the District pay the increase in medical premiums for employees effective the renewal date of May 1, 2005. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) -

George suggested that the Board not consider a COLA at this time. He reviewed the 2005-2006 FY budget. With the exception of the Livestock grant, the District received similar funding as last

year for most Conservation Commission grants for the new biennium. We will receive 6 months of funding at the current level with a competitive grant for the balance of the year.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) –

George reported that the new Critical Areas Ordinance has progressed through the Planning Commission with little change. George was asked by the Planning Director to write up a proposal for the Conservation District to implement certain elements of the CAO. He explained to the County that the District currently does not have any funding to continue planning. George reviewed the proposed tiers for farm planning under the new CAO, including check lists and self-assessments. George explained how the County proposed to deal with the privacy and confidentiality issues with CAO planning. A map and list of BMPs would be given to the landowner, so no plans would be in the District or County offices.

Jerry Van Dellen left at 1:55 p.m. Cornie Timmermans took over Chair duties.

North County Drainage –

George gave an overview of the problem and the District’s role in finding a solution. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have designated water courses and BMPs subject to its jurisdiction. WDFW has stated it is not concerned with small field ditches on private land. However the Department of Ecology can still fine individuals for sediment discharges due to cleaning. The BMP committee is working on a list of BMPs for in-stream drainage work.

Livestock Committee –

WACD has requested George’s participation in the State AFO/CAFO Committee as support for WACD’s representative, Lynn Brown. Lummi has written to the EPA asking for their involvement.

CREP –

George is now the past Chair on the CREP Committee. Whatcom County submitted revised eligibility maps for CREP to the FSA. This revision will add California and Deer Creeks.

Georgia Basin/Puget Sound International Air Strategy –

George attended the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound International Air Strategy meeting in Victoria, BC. He was asked to act as liaison between the Ag Committee and the Commission. The next meeting will be in June with another one scheduled for early September to discuss American efforts.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

05-43 Rod Visser moved that the minutes of the April 14, 2005 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

05-44 Rod Visser moved to approve the Financial Report. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

05-45

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- 05-54 Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the District pay the increase in medical premiums for employees effective the renewal date of May 1, 2005. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Rod Visser moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Dated: August 17, 2005

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant