

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
March 11, 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 March 11, 2008, at 7:00 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"/>	Dick Yoder
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabina Gouran	<input type="checkbox"/>	vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Stone		

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		

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 7:00 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the February 12, 2008 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 February meeting.

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

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

Feb 2008 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15766</u>	through	<u>15779</u>	and totaling	<u>14,975.44</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>15780</u>	through	<u>15794</u>	and totaling	<u>25,404.65</u>
March 2008					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15795</u>	through	<u>15809</u>	and totaling	<u>14,104.01</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>15810</u>	through	<u>15825</u>	and totaling	<u>26,156.18</u>

moved by Dick Yoder. Ed Stone 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 its approval. The Board approved the standard-language contract.

The Board requested copies of maps and addresses with CREP contracts for approval. One CREP maintenance contract is to assume a CREP project that was sold. There were two new projects submitted for Board approval.

Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Kenoyer-Grant (formerly Betty Kelly - 08-04-CR:07-36), Terry & Jackie Andrew (08-04-CR:08-01) and Linda Silverthorn (08-04-CR:08-02). Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Livestock Cost-share Applications –

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.

Dick Yoder moved to approve a Livestock Cost-share contract with Rhody Dairy (Jay DeJong) at 75% of actual costs not to exceed \$25,000 subject to availability of funds. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Conservation Plans.

One dairy nutrient farm plan was submitted for certification. There was discussion regarding a noted potential to discharge. Chris Clark reported that a temporary dike had been put in to stop silage leachate. Mr. Vander Haak is working on a permanent fix. Bob asked if it was possible to decertify a plan if there was a discharge. George explained that that was not an option at this time. He did point out that the regulators would probably refer the operation for correction, if a discharge occurred.

Sabina Gouran moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Tim Vander Haak reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. CREP Maintenance Cap Adjustment.

George reviewed the CREP Maintenance Budget Increase Approval Sheet. There are six projects needing further maintenance requiring an adjustment to the \$2,000 per acre cap. Following Board approval the memo showing new caps was forwarded to the WA Conservation Commission for approval.

Dick Yoder moved to approve the Maintenance Budget Increase Approval sheet recommending to the Conservation Commission new maintenance caps for Diller (149), Hamilton (91), Hollinsworth (206), Robson (164), Singh (190) and Whatcom Land Trust (Fenton Project - 209) CREP projects. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Alex Hall, NRCS.

Alex apologized to the board for missing the March meeting. He had the flu.

EQIP –

The EQIP sign up is completed. There were 10 contracts for approximately \$925,000 in Whatcom County. Alex gave a breakdown of the type of operation that was contracted with. Most were dairy farms with one poultry operation. Whatcom County again got the most funds in the area. There was not as much participation in the other areas this period. Whatcom County received a lot of interest from operations seeking solid separators.

Joy and Alex have had discussions with potato and berry growers regarding irrigation or low/zero drip sprayers as potential cost-share practices through EQIP.

The next EQIP cost-share may begin next month. This will give the staff more time to plan, but will cut into the construction season.

The Lynden Field Office has 61 EQIP contracts that need to have status and contract reviews.

There was a question regarding the practices that the poultry operation is installing. They will have a windbreak and covered manure storage facility.

George discussed two potentially eligible EQIP items.

B. George Boggs.

NSEA –

George, Sabina Gouran and other District staff attended the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association's annual Community Awards Dinner. The Whatcom Conservation District was named NSEA's Community Partner of the Year for the California Creek project.

Annual Plan of Work –

George gave the Board an overview of the new annual plan format. He passed out last year's annual plan of work and the draft budget. George explained the Puget Sound planning matrix. He reviewed how the matrix rolls projects into a plan of work and a budget. The 12 Puget Sound Conservation Districts will make a template for all projects in the Sound. The templates will show activities to be completed and will show accountability, the funding needed and the deliverables to be completed.

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) has scheduled a meeting on March 26th regarding budgeting and planning. The WA Conservation Commission and WACD will use similar templates to those developed by the Puget Sound team. The Board gave George their proxy to carry the message that they agree with using templates for planning and budgeting purposes.

Sabina Gouran approved the WACD and WA Conservation Commission's approach of using templates for budgeting. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Internal Audit –

Jerry and Sabina agreed to do the internal audit.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

08-15 Ed Stone moved that the minutes of the February 12, 2008 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

08-16 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Financial Report. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

08-17

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08-18 Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Kenoyer-Grant (formerly Betty Kelly - 08-04-CR:07-36), Terry & Jackie Andrew (08-04-CR:08-01) and Linda Silverthorn (08-04-CR:08-02). Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

08-19 Dick Yoder moved to approve a Livestock Cost-share contract with Rhody Dairy (Jay DeJong) at 75% of actual costs not to exceed \$25,000 subject to availability of funds. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

08-20 Sabina Gouran moved to certify the Dairy Nutrient Farm plan for Tim Vander Haak reviewed by staff and submitted for Board approval. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

08-21 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Maintenance Budget Increase Approval sheet recommending to the Conservation Commission new maintenance caps for Diller (149), Hamilton (91), Hollinsworth (206), Robson (164), Singh (190) and Whatcom Land Trust (Fenton Project - 209) CREP projects. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

08-22 Sabina Gouran approved the WACD and WA Conservation Commission's approach of using templates for budgeting. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Sabina Gouran moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Dated: April 28, 2008

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____