

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
March 15, 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 March 15, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

Joe Heller
Larry Davis
Dick Yoder

Terry Lenssen
Ed Stone

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, Executive Director
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant

Alex Hall, NRCS
David Unruh, FSA

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Joe Heller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the February 9, 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 February meeting.

Petty Cash for Plant Sale –

Dawn explained that we need cash for the cash registers to make change at the plant sale pick-up and open sale day.

Dick Yoder moved to set up a one-time petty cash fund for the Plant Sale in the amount of \$300. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dairy Federation membership –

The District received an invoice to renew our Washington Dairy Federation Associate Membership for \$125.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve paying the associate membership dues to the Washington Dairy Federation in the amount of \$125. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, presented the financial report.

Dick Yoder moved to approve the Financial Report. Larry Davis 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 2011 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>18396</u>	through	<u>18408</u>	and totaling	<u>6,136.44</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>18409</u>	through	<u>18422</u>	and totaling	<u>28,087.48</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>18423</u>			and totaling	<u>82.90</u>
March 2011					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>18424</u>	through	<u>18441</u>	and totaling	<u>21,033.03</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>18442</u>	through	<u>18454</u>	and totaling	<u>28,309.84</u>
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>18455</u>	through	<u>18460</u>	and totaling	<u>1,896.52</u>

Moved by Dick Yoder. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Conservation Plans.

Livestock Nutrient Management Plan (LNMP) Approval –

There were two Livestock Nutrient Management Plan updates submitted for Board approval. The Trails Edge Dairy (Scott James) Dairy Nutrient Management plan was written by Dave Haggith of N₃ and reviewed by District staff. The plan for Leroy Plagerman is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) plan.

Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Livestock Nutrient Management Plan update for Trails Edge Dairy (Scott James) and Leroy Plagerman CAFO plan. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis –

The annual Local Work Group meeting was held last week in Coupeville, WA. The meeting was efficiently run and they were able to depart 1.5 hours early. Larry shared the group's recommendation for allocations of funds based upon producer type. Steve will take the local work group priorities and combine with national priorities to set the parameters for next year's program. Larry also reported on the cost-share caps that were adjusted.

Terry Lenssen –

Terry attended the Western States Dairy Producers Trade Association (WSDPTA) meeting in Reno, NV. It was a good conference. He shared some information that he received at the conference. George reported that Nichole Embertson was asked to speak at the Western Dairy Air Quality Symposium in Sacramento in April 2011 which is being hosted by WSDPTA. George was asked to present to the WSDPTA Board on the Nooksack Bacterial TMDL success story.

Dick Yoder –

Dick reported on an animal traceability program. There was discussion regarding the need to know where animals are coming from to track food movement for Homeland Security. The program would cost approximately \$0.40 per cow to set up the tracking system. Dr. Eldridge,

DWM Department of Ag head of Animal Services Division, would have oversight. There was also discussion regarding hoof and mouth and other diseases and how not knowing the origin of animals could have an impact on disease spreading.

Ed Stone –

Ed reported that his veterinarian office is getting solar panels installed.

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

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – Alex has been very busy. Six contracts have been obligated. Most of the Northwest Area Team funds were received by Whatcom County. All funds need to be obligated by Friday. There are a few more contracts in line if more funds become available.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) – There are no funds available for this program. Whatcom County has a few applications in line for funds if it becomes available.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Three applications are currently being worked on.

Dave Unruh, Farm Service Agency, asked what percentage of contracts is current with the timeline under NRCS programs. Alex reported that they are 100% in compliance, and if needed they can modify contract timelines for reasonable requests.

C. David Unruh, Farm Service Agency.

Dave, Betty Snell and one other person just got back from Washington, DC. He went as a representative for the Washington Employee Association. Dave reported on his activities back there.

D. George Boggs, Executive Director.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Legislative Days – George reviewed the schedule for the Board members that were going to attend.

Budget – George briefly reviewed that we do not know the status of the budget until the end of the legislative session. There is a WACD teleconference set up for the morning of March 18.

Composter Meeting – George has been asked by the Oregon State NRCS to give a presentation to a composter group in Oregon regarding the Nooksack Bacterial TMDL success story and how to get plans on the ground.

Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP) Redo – The original plan was done in 1998. The dairy team met to revisit the plan with new insights. NRCS is revising the 590 standard for filter strips. Staff have had four meetings. Alex, Joy, Chuck, Nichole and Chris have put together some comments to go to the NRCS as input under the permit.

George discussed manure application setback and filter strip changes applying the new 590 specification. There are challenges and complaints with no vegetative practices when they are prescribed. It is suggested to get away from filter strips and use field borders and cover crops to filter sediments from field runoff.

The Solid Waste Handling Act was modified to address digester waste. Digester owners will have to have a nutrient plan for field applications of digestate. It is a simple 8 page plan. George discussed recordkeeping and control of manure using waste transfer agreements.

George reviewed the contracts and grants that help dairies and small farms. He suggested that we review a list of those requesting service and give them a heads up that we can't work with them without funding. It was suggested that George write a letter.

Department of Ecology Letter – George reviewed Ecology’s response to our letter regarding termination of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). There was discussion regarding how we would deal with a referral from Ecology. The District would accept referrals so long as Ecology clearly indicated in advance that it would accept a plan developed with the NRCS planning process and practices. Further, that the landowner would be afforded the timeline contained in the MOU to develop and implement the plan. The Board directed George to remind Ecology that while it may reach agreement with the Conservation Commission as to the contents of an MOA, it would still need to negotiate specific terms with the Board.

Upcoming Meetings –

George will travel to Washington DC on March 28-30, 2011 to participate on EPA Federal Advisory Committee (Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities). Ron Schultz will present on the Puget Sound

George will participate in the Sediment Management Issues Group of the Washington Assn. of Flood Managers. It is to be held at the University of Washington. The group will be developing recommendations for addressing the political and practical challenges of managing the increasing deposition of gravel in rivers that raises the risk of flooding.

Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) – Annual training conference is scheduled for June 13-15, 2011 in Leavenworth.

Annual Plan of Work – We will assess the activities to determine if any changes are needed in preparation of completing the upcoming annual plan of work.

Election – Terry won the Supervisor election. The WA Conservation Commission has to review the election and certify the results. Joe will apply for the appointed position. The Conservation Commission acts on the appointments at their May Board meeting.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

11-16 Larry Davis moved that the minutes of the February 9, 2011 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

11-17 Dick Yoder moved to set up a one-time petty cash fund for the Plant Sale in the amount of \$300. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

11-18 Terry Lenssen moved to approve paying the associate membership dues to the Washington Dairy Federation in the amount of \$125. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

11-19 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Financial Report. Larry Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

11-20

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Moved by Dick Yoder. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- 11-21 Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Livestock Nutrient Management Plan update for Trails Edge Dairy (Scott James) and Leroy Plagerman CAFO plan. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Larry Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Dated: April 25, 2011

Approved: _____
Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant