

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2009**

**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 October 14, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Attendance and Quorum.**

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

Dick Yoder	Ed Stone
Joe Heller	Terry Lenssen

Also in attendance were:

George Boggs, District Manager	Alex Hall, NRCS staff
Dawn Bekenyi, Admin. Assistant	

**III. Meeting Called to Order.**

Dick Yoder, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

**Terry Lenssen moved that the minutes of the September 9, 2009 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**V. Financial Report.**

The financial report was mailed to the Board with their draft minutes from the September meeting.

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

**Joe Heller moved to approve the Financial Report. Terry Lenssen 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:

Sept 2009 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17177</u>	through	<u>17200</u>	and totaling	<u>42,625.83</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>17201</u>	through	<u>17212</u>	and totaling	<u>25,600.42</u>
October 2009					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>17213</u>	through	<u>17227</u>	and totaling	<u>40,114.17</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>17228</u>	through	<u>17239</u>	and totaling	<u>25,560.90</u>

Moved by Joe Heller. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## VI. Action Items.

### A. Approval of Contracts.

#### CREP Cultural Resources Assessment Contract –

There is one CREP applicant that needs to have a 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 bid was appropriate with prior experience. Staff recommended that the Board approve the contract for the Alan Soicher CREP project.

**Joe Heller moved to approve the Cultural Resource Assessment contract with Mark Hovezak for the Alan Soicher CREP project in the amount of \$2,155.00. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

#### CREP Contracts –

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the administrative lead on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) joint program. The FSA County Committee approves all CREP plans. The current policy is that once FSA approves the Federal Contract and CREP plan the contract is then brought to the Board for its approval. The Board approved the Conservation Commission prescribed standard-language contract.

There were ten projects submitted for Board approval.

**Ed Stone moved to ratify the CREP contracts for  
Connie Albrecht – Cain Lake Stables (08-04-CR:09-17);  
Jerry & Johanna Anderson (08-04-CR:09-20);  
Jim Dailey (08-04-CR:09-21);  
Tim Gates – McCarty Creek LLC (08-04-CR:09-28);  
John & Gayla Kramme (08-04-CR:09-18);  
Chuck & Sarah Papageorge (08-04-CR:09-23);  
Harry & Cheryl Patz (08-04-CR:09-14);  
Don & Donna Starr (08-04-CR:09-15);  
Philip & Gwynne Top (08-04-CR:09-08);  
and Jeff Turner (08-04-CR:09-24). Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The Board had questions about buffer appearance, weeds and fish presence in CREP projects. George explained that staff is preparing a CREP project tour in November. The Board and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee are invited to attend.

### B. Approval of Conservation Plans.

#### Livestock Nutrient Management Plan (LNMP) Approval –

There were two Livestock Nutrient Management Plans submitted for Board approval.

**Terry Lenssen moved to approve the Livestock Nutrient Management Plans for Dynamoo #2 (Glen Dykstra), and VandeHoef Dairy #2 (Rod VandeHoef). Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### C. Board Meeting Date Change.

The scheduled date for November's Board meeting falls on a holiday. It was decided to move the meeting to Tuesday.

**Joe Heller moved to change the November Board meeting to Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Ed Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **VII. Other Business.**

### **A. Supervisor Reports.**

#### Ed Stone –

Ed voiced concern over recent emails sent to a large group of people, including political representatives, regarding the Whatcom Conservation District and its employees. He asked George to respond and put a rest to the misconceptions that are being put forth.

George reported that District staff had met with 4-H and FFA leaders regarding small farm planning. The meeting had a favorable outcome.

#### Joe Heller –

Joe attended the October staff meeting. He was impressed with the positive atmosphere and numerous and diverse projects that are taking place as reported on by staff.

#### Terry Lenssen –

##### Flood control/gravel scalping –

Terry spoke with a couple of farmers who are willing to meet about gravel impacts. George spoke with Representative Kelli Linville regarding gravel extraction from the Nooksack River. Kelli advised that she was going to speak with Governor Gregoire regarding the issue. George has not heard anything from the Governor's Office. George is scheduled to meet with Representative Kelli Linville on October 28, 2009 to pursue funding for a gravel extraction model or study.

Dick Yoder mentioned that this issue was brought up at a recent meeting that he attended. Pete Kremen, Whatcom County Executive, was there. Pete said that he was not aware of the gravel extraction issue when he was asked about it. George suggested that he would like to meet with the Tribes first and engage them before bringing in the County.

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

#### Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) –

There has not been a budget allocation made for 2010 EQIP yet. The applications have been ranked, but they don't know how many will get funded.

Farmers have to certify their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for federal program application eligibility by October 31, 2009. The AGI certification is now annual. Formerly a farmer would only update when something changed.

#### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) –

There were four applicants that signed up for the CSP. Alex reviewed that there are still a lot of unknowns on this program. There will be another sign-up in January. They hope to have more information on the program by then.

#### Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) –

The area biologist is reviewing the projects. There are two applications at this time with the possibility of more.

#### Staff –

Alex informed that Board that Roylene Rides at the Door, NRCS State Conservationist, was coming to the Lynden Field Office on October 23, 2009 at 8:00 in the morning.

Local Work Group –

Larry Davis met with George and Alex about the Local Work Group (LWG). He is eager to work on issues. Larry drafted a letter to Steve Nissley, NRCS District Conservationist, to get some background on the LWG.

**C. George Boggs, District Manager.**

NW Area Meeting –

Joe and Terry will attend the NW Area Meeting along with George. George gave a background on the area meetings. A draft resolution regarding beaver maintenance for CREP projects was reviewed with the Board.

**Terry Lenssen moved to approve the draft Beaver B Gone Resolution to be presented at the NW Area Meeting with corrections. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The Board would like to know the status of last year's resolutions that were presented and approved at the WACD Annual Convention. George said that he did not think much had been done on them this year. It was decided to reintroduce the resolutions. One is to allow expenses to get power to an area to implement a BMP under state cost-share. The other resolution is to use livestock for site prep on CREP projects.

**Ed Stone moved to reintroduce last year's resolution regarding allowing expenses to get power to implement BMPs under state cost-share and the use of livestock for site prep on CREP projects that were presented at the NW Area meeting. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Beaver Deceiver Project –

George gave an update on the Shuksan Golf Course Beaver Deceiver and Fish Weir. He showed slides of the installed project.

CREP Tour –

Staff is planning a tour of CREP projects for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee and the District Board. The tour hopes to show overstory, impacts of beaver and planting, and viability of current projects. The tour will be from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. A couple of dates were selected to have the tour, either November 4 or 5. Sonya will coordinate with FSA and set a date confirming it with the Board.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) –

George explained that there has been concern about confidentiality of farm plans as a result of several meetings regarding the Critical Areas Ordinance. George has been working with Whatcom County regarding public disclosure. The landowner will give permission to the District to give a copy of the farm plan to Whatcom County. Whatcom County will not use the farm plans for enforcement or building permit violations. The plans will only be used to confirm CAO compliance. If the plans are submitted through the Conservation District there will not be a site inspection or the fee. If the plan is submitted independently, then the fees and site visit will be charged by the County. George hopes to get an inter-local agreement regarding the public disclosure and farm plans with Whatcom County.

Grant Opportunities –

There are three grant proposals that District staff are working on.

The first one is a Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) grant application for the BBWARM (Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management).

Second is a joint EPA grant application with Skagit Conservation District for a small farm program. Skagit will be the lead on the project. Whatcom's portion of the project will be small farm planning, cost-share, education and outreach, and Northwest Horse Source activities.

Third, Nichole Embertson will be submitting an EPA grant application for an Alternative Risk Assessment program for Commercial Dairies.

Energy Audit –

The Whatcom Conservation District has joined Sustainable Connections with a business membership. Sustainable Connections will conduct an energy audit review. We are looking for ways to make our building more energy efficient. The Board discussed changing our lighting and the potential rebates available to upgrade. It was decided that we will get bids and proceed after the energy audit.

Long Range Plan –

The Board reviewed the Long Range Plans and made changes as noted on the attached documents. There was discussion regarding public input on the long range plan. It was decided to share the outline with staff. Then the Board will send copies of the plan to the local Farm Forestry Association, Cattlemen's Association, Dairy Federation and agencies for their comments.

The map showing the priority work area will be revised to include all of WRIA 1, excluding Lake Whatcom, Samish Bay, Bellingham Bay and Lummi Island, and will include Canada North of Lynden and in the Sumas Abbotsford Aquifer Area.

WACD Annual Convention –

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Annual Convention is scheduled for December 1-3, 2009 in Spokane, WA. The District will reserve three rooms. Joe Heller indicated that he will attend. Dick said that he would be unable to attend.

**VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**09-88 Terry Lensen moved that the minutes of the September 9, 2009 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joe Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**09-89 Joe Heller moved to approve the Financial Report. Terry Lensen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.**

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**IX. Adjournment.**

There being no further business before the meeting, Ed Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Terry Lenssen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Dated: December 1, 2009

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Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant

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