

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Public Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2007**

**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 September 11, 2007, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Jimerson
<input 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		Chris Clark, WCD

**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.**

**Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the August 8, 2007 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 their draft minutes from the August 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. Joyce Jimerson 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:

August 2007 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15293</u>	through	<u>15308</u>	and totaling	<u>19,419.22</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>15309</u>	through	<u>15322</u>	and totaling	<u>22,224.07</u>
September 2007					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>15323</u>	through	<u>15337</u>	and totaling	<u>10,783.29</u>

Payroll check numbers: 15338 through 15351 and totaling 22,016.62  
**moved by Dick Yoder. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **VI. Action Items.**

### **A. 2007-08 Budget.**

The draft budget had been submitted for Board review in June. The budget contemplated funds from Whatcom County. Dawn did calculations without the County funding and determined that the budget would still balance. George explained that he would postpone the consideration of pay scale adjustment until the uncertainty around the County contract is removed. The Board approved the draft budget without pay scale adjustment.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to approve the 2007-08 Budget. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### **B. Approval of Conservation Plans.**

One dairy nutrient management updated plan was submitted for approval.

**Dick Yoder moved to approve the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Peter Vlas reviewed by staff. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

One conservation plan was submitted for Board approval.

**Dick Yoder moved to approve the conservation plan for Howard Holz that was reviewed by staff. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed**

### **C. Approval of Contracts.**

#### Livestock Cost-share Addendum –

The District received a grant addendum for the Livestock Cost-share (08-4-LC) with 1 Drue Dickinson, 2 Ken Maarhuis, 3 Seth Snook, 4 Jeff Rainey, 5 Tim Vanderhaak & 6 Tim Vander Veen for a total of \$131,078.30. The Board reviewed and approved the addendum as per Washington Conservation Commission direction.

**Sabina Gouran moved to approve the Livestock Cost-share addendum for 1 Drue Dickinson, 2 Ken Maarhuis, 3 Seth Snook, 4 Jeff Rainey, 5 Tim Vanderhaak & 6 Tim Vander Veen for a total of \$131,078.30. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

#### Livestock Cost-share Applications –

There are five producers that are requesting livestock cost-share. Chris reviewed the applicants and the practices to be installed. The Board approved the list of applicants subject to availability of funds, not to exceed \$25,000 per contract.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to approve Livestock Cost-share contracts with Cornie Vreugdenhil (\$4,000), Marvin Vreugdenhil (\$25,000), Robert Smit (\$25,000), John Van Berkum (\$25,000), and Ed Strachila (\$10,800) at 75% of actual costs not to exceed \$25,000 or the amount listed subject to availability of funds. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

#### 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 contracts.

Sabina Gouran moved to ratify the CREP contracts for Darrell Barnes (06-04-CR01:07-03), Kathy Brisky (06-04-CR01:07-07-20), Byron (Bill) & Angela Brown (06-04-CR01:07-24), Kris Carson (06-04-CR01:07-13), Gil Castro (06-07-CR01:07-19), Bernardo & Ana Frianeza (06-04-CR01:07-23), John & Tesil Henry (06-04-CR01:07-10), Cindy & Mike Hollinsworth (06-04-CR01:07-29), Brian Hrutfiord (06-04-CR01:07-12), Brady Mayson Project II (06-04-CR01:07-28), Merlin Reeck (06-04-CR01:07-22), Philip & Tammy Westfall (06-04-CR01:07-16), and Charles & Sharon Wolters (06-04-CR01:07-11). Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Skagit Conservation District –

Skagit Conservation District sent Amendment #3 to the MOA between Skagit and Whatcom. The amendment will extend the agreement for another year. George reviewed the MOA. It is in place to share the cluster engineer (housed in Skagit) and for Skagit to do work in the Samish River watershed in Whatcom County.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to approve and sign amendment #3 to the MOA between Skagit and Whatcom Conservation Districts extending the agreement until June 30, 2008. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Dakota Creek Riparian Project Sub-contracts –

The permits are expected soon to begin work on the Dakota Creek Riparian Project. We are going through the bid process to obtain the sub-contract work. We are seeking authorization for the Chair to sign contracts based on the lowest qualified bids to get the work completed within budget.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize the Chair to sign the sub-contract work agreements as long as they meet the bid and are equal to or less than the budget. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Department of Transportation contract –

Another time sensitive contract is the Department of Transportation (DOT) contract to do work on State Route 9 drainage issues. The DOT is contracting with the District to work with three landowners that were impacted due to road work on SR9.

**Dick Yoder moved to approve for the contract with the DOT for signature. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Pavement Repairs –

The pavement repairs have been sent out for bid by RH2. The expedite matters the Board authorized the chair to sign the winning bid.

**Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize the Chair to sign the winning bid for pavement repairs. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **VII. Other Business.**

### **A. Alex Hall, NRCS.**

EQIP – At the time of the meeting NRCS had not heard about the EQIP sign up period. The local work group meeting was scheduled for September 14.

TSP – A TSP task order for Bill Bonsen was signed to work on EQIP projects through December 16, 2007. The task order was drafted to be flexible in working with landowners.

Staff – Joy Hawley has been made a permanent employee of NRCS. There is a new Soil Conservationist in the Mt. Vernon office as well.

Other – Joy has received her planning certification. The CNMP (Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan) training scheduled for the end October will hopefully clarify planning requirements statewide. NRCS staff's work load priority is to do status reviews on EQIP projects and complete the existing EQIP contracts.

**B. Supervisor Reports.**

Joyce Jimerson is working with Sonya Schaller, Beth Chisholm and Tom Slocum (cluster engineer) on a presentation at the BIA workshop on Low Impact Development.

**C. George Boggs.**

Meetings –

The Local Work Group is meeting on September 14 at 9:00 a.m. in Coupeville. George invited Board members to attend. George said that Bob Barker had already accepted.

The NW Area meeting is scheduled for October 17 in Friday Harbor. It will be a full day meeting with travel. Betty Norton (Skagit CD Supervisor) is retiring. It is at this event that a new NW Area Commissioner will be elected. Also, Supervisors will vote on resolutions that will go forward to the State convention at the end of November. If any Supervisors had an idea for resolution, they need only contact George who will put it in the requisite form.

The WACD Convention is scheduled for November 26-29, 2007 in Vancouver, WA.

Lynden Land Development –

George reported to the Board that a notice was in the paper that the City of Lynden received an application to add 197 acres of farmland to its Urban Growth area with a commercial designation. The District had opposed a similar effort in 1999. The hearing is set for October 11. The Board discussed the concept of a Transfer of Development Rights program to offset development. There was discussion on what the Board's stand should be on developing land zoned Agriculture. Sabina pointed out that the District's mission was brought out at our annual planning session was to "protect farm land." It was decided that there were not enough details to make an informed decision at this point.

Programmatic Exemption of Fill & Grade Permits –

The County used to have an exemption on getting a Fill & Grade Permit on NRCS designed projects. It was recently interpreted that this was no longer acceptable. Chris and others are working with Whatcom County to get a programmatic exemption of Fill & Grade permits for NRCS designed projects. NRCS staff will meet individuals from Whatcom County on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Verizon –

George reported Verizon requested a meeting with the District Board regarding the potential litigation. Verizon was supposed to attend the September Board meeting, but did not show.

Presentations –

George is the facilitator at the CNMP training in October. He will also give a presentation next week in Tacoma to the national CAFO Roundtable hosted by WSDA.

Asbestos Meeting –

George gave a review of the local meeting held to discuss the asbestos issue with local landowners. The residents are not happy and want it cleaned out. However, it will be highly unlikely that there will be any dredging in the area. This will probably mean flooding this winter.

George said that we are not developing any new CREP contracts in the affected area. He is recommending to the Commission and State FSA that the existing CREP contracts remain in

place. Most of the projects have been well established and could survive without further maintenance. There is a telephone conference set to discuss the state's liability.

Other –

There was no response from Mr. Whorly on the CREP maintenance request.

Rick Noble sent a thank you card.

**VIII. Record of Board Actions.**

**07-72 Dick Yoder moved that the minutes of the August 8, 2007 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**07-73 Dick Yoder moved to approve the Financial Report. Joyce Jimerson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved.**

**07-74**

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- 07-81 Joyce Jimerson moved to approve and sign amendment #3 to the MOA between Skagit and Whatcom Conservation Districts extending the agreement until June 30, 2008. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-82 Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize the Chair to sign the sub-contract work agreements as long as they meet the bid and are equal to or less than the budget. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-83 Dick Yoder moved to approve for the contract with the DOT for signature. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**
- 07-84 Joyce Jimerson moved to authorize the Chair to sign the winning bid for pavement repairs. Sabina Gouran seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**IX. Adjournment.**

**There being no further business before the meeting, Sabina Gouran moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Dick Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Dated: November 20, 2007

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

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Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant