

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2004**

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 9, 2004 at 12:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Quorum.

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Barker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Van Dellen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rod Visser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cornelius Timmermans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Randy Kinley		

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		Bas Scholten, Association Supervisor
	Chris Clark, Technician		Beth Chisholm, Technician

III. Meeting Called to Order.

Jerry Van Dellen acting as Chairman of the meeting called it to order at 12:00 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Cornie Timmermans moved that the minutes of the August 12, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Rod Visser 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.

Upon request Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant, reviewed the Financial Report. There was discussion regarding discretionary funds available in the District's bank accounts. The District was awarded extra funds for AFO/CAFO activities under the Livestock (formerly Dairy) grant.

Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the Financial Report. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Financial 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 2004 - balance					
Voucher (check) numbers	<u>12451</u>	through	<u>12482</u>	and totaling	<u>47,965.63</u>
Payroll check numbers:	<u>12483</u>	through	<u>12496</u>	and totaling	<u>18,352.84</u>

September 2004				
Voucher (check) numbers	12497	through	12512	and totaling <u>5,458.66</u>
Payroll check numbers:	12513	through	12526	and totaling <u>18,337.40</u>

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

VI. Action Items.

A. Approval of Contracts.

CREP Cultural Resources Contract –

There is a new CREP applicant (Del Corral) that needs to have cultural resource assessments on their proposed project. The District sends out requests for bid 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. George presented 1 contract for approval by the Board.

Rod Visser moved to approve Cultural Resource Assessment contract 04-04-CRS02:04-20 with Drayton Archaeological Research (Garth Baldwin) for the Del Corral CREP Project. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Other.

Cartographer Computer –

George explained to the Board that the cartographer station is very slow. With the new GIS programs Andrew loses valuable work time waiting for results. George requested approval to purchase a new cartographer station that would result in cost savings to the district.

Cornie Timmermans authorized \$3,600 to purchase a new computer (cartographer work station). Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Other Business.

A. George Boggs, Manager’s Report.

Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Tour –

The District is hosting, in conjunction with other agencies, the CRM Tour on September 22, 2004. George discussed the tour. It will start at 9:00 a.m. The tour will go around Bertrand and Tenmile Creeks looking at various project sites.

NW Area Meeting –

The NW Area meeting is scheduled for Sept 30, 2004 at the Woodland Park Zoo. George will be out of town so will not attend. The Board decided to send Bas Scholten, Associate Supervisor, as their representative.

There was discussion regarding past resolutions brought to the area meetings. One issue was the Freedom of Information Act and how that effects Conservation Districts farm planning. The differences between state and federal files and the Freedom of Information Act were discussed.

There was also discussion regarding the state WACD Convention. Resolutions from all of the area meetings are sent to the state convention. These resolutions are brought to committee where a recommendation is made for action by the general body. Once out of committee the resolutions are voted on by the general body. These resolutions act as direction for the WACD directors and their lobbyist.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) –

Whatcom County is starting to look at updating their Critical Areas Ordinance. It is to be completed by the end of the year. There are several options for the County to address the CAO. It should treat all water courses the same or offer flexible buffer widths due to stream type.

George suggested that individuals should hire a consultant to do their farm plans if they are interested in obtaining smaller buffers. The District's role would be to review the farm plans and to conduct status reviews of farm plan implementation. The District would also provide workshops for people who wish to write their own farm plan. This would be a coached planning effort. All participants in Federal or State conservation programs like CREP and EQIP would continue to have their plans written by the District.

The District anticipates more demand for small farm plans. There are limited funds available through the existing grants. In order to assist the maximum amount of people George recommended that the District pay 50% of the cost of a farm plan up to \$250 per plan for a consultant developed plan.

Rod Visser moved that the District pay 50% up to \$250 of consultant developed non-commercial farm plans developed for all new small farm plans, exclusive of individuals enrolled in CREP and EQIP programs. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tenmile Creek –

George reported on Frank Corey's work with Drainage Improvement District #7 to get the HPA to do stream maintenance on Fourmile Creek.

Conservation Incentives Program –

George passed out a draft paper "Conservation Incentives for Ag Landowners in Puget Sound." George is talking with people from the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound. George asked the Board to provide input on the draft paper. The Shared Strategy is willing to put effort into developing a "green" milk label. There was discussion regarding the organic milk market and the potentials of a "green" label. It was decided to invite Sherm Polinder and others to a meeting to explore producer interest in a "green" label. There was discussion regarding milk production and the margin between the producer and the retailer/consumer. Details of the logistics of how to make a "green" label program work will need to be worked out. It was decided to set up a meeting of interested parties in October or November.

Long Range Planning –

George passed out a 5 year long range plan worksheet for Board review and consideration. Long Range Planning will be further discussed at the November board meeting.

Septic Systems –

George gave some follow up on the failing septic systems in Drayton Harbor. He met with Pete Kremen and other County agency people. Whatcom County was to have created an Operation and Maintenance program for all septic systems by January 1, 2000. Such a program would have included regular inspections. The County did not observe its own ordinance in this regard. No program is in place.

B. John Gillies, NRCS.

Winter Manure Application –

John reported that NRCS has been requested to develop a winter manure application specification. Whatcom County has written a few plans that provide for limited winter application. John explained that there are strict limitations to the practice, which include site limitations, soil type, low nutrient and accessibility during winter months. Other offices are interested in winter application, which prompted NRCS to review and consider developing a specification to be reviewed by the LDOC.

Marietta Slough –

John reported that the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) project on Marietta Slough has been halted due to a find. A cultural resource assessment was done prior to work beginning. There were no hits. NRCS stopped all work immediately upon the discovery. The Tribes are reviewing.

Conservation Security Program (CSP) –

John reported that the first contract in Washington was signed with a rancher in Moses Coulee. CSP rewards producers for conservation projects that they have done. We are looking into getting the program in Whatcom County.

C. Water Quality Testing.

The Board asked how the water quality numbers were during the NW Washington Fair and how the heavy rains have affected the water quality numbers. Beth Chisholm and Chris Clark were brought into the meeting to answer these questions.

Beth Chisholm –

Beth discussed the water quality testing during the fair. She gave the background that for the past two years fecal numbers have been high. Last year the Department of Ecology had the fairgrounds fix the problem. So this year we took samples everyday during fair week to see how things were going. The data gather was shared with both the NW Washington Fair and DOE as per the agreement. The numbers were still high. [The Department of Ecology is considering enforcement action.](#)

Chris Clark –

Following all the rain we received the Nooksack River's water quality fecal numbers were high. But the Shellfish bed numbers in the Bay were low. There was discussion regarding flushing of pollutants in a watershed following a heavy rainfall event.

VIII. Record of Board Actions.

04-58 Cornie Timmermans moved that the minutes of the August 12, 2004 Board meeting be approved as mailed. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-59 Cornie Timmermans moved to approve the Financial Report. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Financial Report was approved.

04-60

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

04-61 Rod Visser moved to approve Cultural Resource Assessment contract 04-04-CRS02:04-20 with Drayton Archaeological Research (Garth Baldwin) for the Del Corral CREP Project. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-62 Cornie Timmermans authorized \$3,600 to purchase a new computer (cartographer work station). Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

04-63 Rod Visser moved that the District pay 50% up to \$250 of consultant developed non-commercial farm plans developed for all new small farm plans, exclusive of individuals enrolled in CREP and EQIP programs. Cornie Timmermans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the meeting, Cornie Timmermans moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:12 p.m. Rod Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting on motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Dated: October 29, 2004

Dawn Bekenyi, Administrative Assistant