

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Board of Supervisor Regular Meeting**

9:00 AM  
September 23, 2019

**MINUTES**

Conference Room  
6975 Hannegan Rd

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 8:58 AM.

**BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT**

*Board Members*

Heather Christianson, Chair  
Suzzi Snyder, Vice-Chair  
Larry Davis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Alan Chapman  
Valeri Wade

*Administrative Staff & Others in Attendance*

George Boggs, Executive Director  
Andrew Phay, GIS/IT Analyst, Note Taker  
Alex Hall, NRCS  
  
Meg Harris, staff, note taker

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**OPEN SESSION (In person or written)**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY SNYDER TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING  
CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

1. Request approval of Minutes from August 26, 2019 meeting.
2. Request approval of August 26, 2019 Financial Reports.
3. Request ratification of August Accounts Paid as within FY2019 Budget.
4. Request authorization for the District Chair to sign as approving of a Whatcom County Moderate Intensity Farm Plan for Mandip Kalar dba J&M Farms.
5. Request authorization for the District Chair to sign an interlocal agreements with Whatcom County to:
  - a. To assist the Whatcom Water Alliance to develop a water use efficiency plan for Domestic/Municipal users.
  - b. Whatcom County to develop a water use efficiency plan for Agricultural Users.
6. Request Board ratification for agreements signed on behalf of the District by the Executive Director because of time constraints with:
  - a. American Farmland Trust to assist with discovery farm field study in King County.
  - b. EPA to decommission ZAPs units and provide final report.
  - c. Her Majesty the Queen through Province of BC to update and transfer ARM and Manure Spreading Advisory for lower Fraser Valley to Ministry of Agriculture.

**REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA**

Other Items

1. George presentation on landscape services. Described some services provided currently and presented Kitsap CD examples, including community garden, compost, rain gardens or other LID projects. Board request information on property acreage and feasibility of projects. Discussion of staff availability/expertise for covering as-needed maintenance work or future projects.

**MOVED BY CHAPMAN AND SECONDED BY WADE TO TERMINATE CONTRACT, FILL IN AD- HOC MAINTENECE AS NEEDED, AND LOOK INTO FUNDING AND FEASIBILITY FOR CONSERVATION PROJETCS TO USE PROPERTY. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

2. Discuss WCD/WACD relationship and dues structure. WACD is looking towards uniform rate for all districts, proposed \$3,900 per year in dues for upcoming year to vary based on budget (as per DAVIS). WCD pays approximately \$4,000 year on calculated fee schedule, sometimes more sometimes less (as per BOGGS). Discuss history of Plant Material Center and potential for offsetting dues (PMC currently contributes \$75,000). Also discussed districts in need, including formal or informal dues waivers. Discussed value received from WACD.

Potential action options: 1. Support status quo (graduated rate) 2. Support uniform dues structure (level rate), 3. More information is needed, for example investigate offsetting dues from PMC profits. 4. Rather than a specific position, board may choose to outline principles important for decision.

**BOARD expresses favor for “fairness” in dues structure. DAVIS to share draft language for a dues waiver with board. No formal decision made.**

**MOVED BY WADE AND SECONDED BY DAVIS THAT WCD PAYS THEIR DUES TO WACD THIS YEAR. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

3. WACD Resolutions.
  - a. Skagit Fire and Forest Health / DNR. Consensus of support for these types of programs, but BOARD unsure of support of this resolution as drafted.

**BOGGS will draft a new resolution format that is *concise, standardized and includes a district specific needs statement*. Board consensus, no formation motion.**

- b. Elections. Discussion of both 1. Election of board members on the general ballot and 2. Authority provided by general election board (e.g. impact on leveraging rates and charges). DAVIS described work of the elections subcommittee workgroup to describe technical considerations of election modifications.

**BOARD does not support taking this resolution forward at this time. Will see what other options are presented. No formation motion.**

- c. Resolution on Improving Association and District Governance. Board supports this resolution moving forward, some concerns expressed about specificity of resolution, favor for options/solutions. Should language specifically include “Carver and Aspen” model or be more general. **Board supports resolution with modification. BOGGS will modify.**

**MOVED BY CHAMPMAN SECONDED BY CHRISTIANSON TO ACCEPT MODIFIED LANGUAGE: “WACD ... should immediately identify an effective model of governance and take steps to adopt and implement it.” MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

- d. Resolution to afford Area initiatives deference absent a majority vote of the Association to the contrary. BOARD and Exec Boggs outlined current situation, including ease or lack of ease of moving forward on initiatives, the potential for the Association undermining Area consensus. Resolution would require a vote of DISAPPROVAL for the Association to act contrary to Area initiatives that are approved within their Area.

**BOARD does not support taking this resolution forward at this time. No formation motion.**

- e. **NEW ITEM:** Does board support a resolution to be taken to the Area regarding sustainable practices? George provided memo describing this work (see meeting packet).

**BOARD supports BOGGS to draft a resolution to be made to Area including energy conservation, on-farm energy conservation and use, and soil health as well as additional resources to be allocated for these types of programs and projects.**

#### 4. Rates & Charges Steps Forward

Exec Boggs provided a presentation of rates & charges steps forward including: district mission and goals, board governance principles, listening sessions, and the servant-leadership mentality. This will rely on board participation for listening meetings and public participation.

Discussion of the challenge of developing a strategic plan to meets or optimizes the needs of all constituents, especially on issues for which there are competing interests. How can this be accounted for in listening sessions or forums? Listening sessions may be defined geographically, as issue or topic based conversations, by stakeholder group, or defined otherwise.

**BOARD to provide personal calendars and interest and availability in participating in listening sessions. BOARD will also provide feedback on listening meeting topics and constituent groups that should be included, and any overall thoughts on these next steps.**

#### INTRODUCTION ITEMS

BOARD supports BOGGS to draft a resolution to be made to Area including energy conservation, on-farm energy conservation and use, and soil health as well as additional resources to be allocated for these types of programs and projects.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

SNYDER suggests Alex Hall (NRCS) be front loaded on the agenda to be respectful of his time. Board consensus, no formal motion.

WADE shared that Whatcom is #2 in growing counties in WA state. Franklin County is #1. Suggestion that BOARD considers how population growth with affect the County and the district activities, as well as communicate with Franklin on shared challenges.

Exec Boggs has updated Manager's Report in SmartSheets. CHAPMAN requested a file that can be downloaded or printed, which is difficult in SmartSheets. BOGGS will provide a first quarter status report.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

***(Alex Hall report moved to 11:30 prior to discussion of resolution (d) and any introduction Items. Return to meeting agenda structure after this discussion)***

Alex Hall, NRCS report. Reviewed activities and program funding for EQIP and RCCP projects of the local NRCS office for the past year, including work with:

- 8 horse projects
- 1 potato grower
- 3 fish passage
- 11 dairies
- Informal work with multiple berry producers, but no financial contracts
- RCCP projects
- Implementation of CREP projects relative to flooding or nuisance, including beaver

Discussion of beaver removal policy or procedures, including newly released biological opinion (Farm Service Agency local oversight committee.) Alex described importance of landowner contracts and clearly defined neighbor-to-neighbor expectations prior to project implementation. CHAPMAN suggested that new project implementation could be integrated with drainage based management plans to determine potential for unintended consequences or conflicts.

WCD provided event using NRCS soil research trailer. Alex (NRCS) and BOARD complimented WCD's on their use of the trailer as an effective demonstration and interesting activity.

Discussion of renewable energies. George shared USDA document "Advancing Renewable Energies" and press release. See meeting materials. NRCS offers energy efficiency through some EQUIP practices. Currently renewable energies are not supported through USDA NRCS cost share.

#### **Record of Board Actions.**

#### **19-51 It WAS MOVED BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY SNYDER TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

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#### **19-52 MOVED BY CHAPMAN AND SECONDED BY WADE TO TERMINATE CONTRACT, FILL IN AD- HOC MAINTENECE AS NEEDS, AND LOOK INTO FUNDING AND FEASIBILITY FOR CONSERVATION PROJETS TO USE PROPERTY. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

#### **19-53 MOVED BY WADE AND SECONDED BY DAVIS THAT WCD PAYS THEIR DUES TO WACD THIS YEAR. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

#### **19-54 MOVED BY CHAMPMAN SECONDED BY CHRISTIANSON. TO ACCEPT MODIFIED LANGUAGE: "WACD ... should immediately identify an effective model of governance and take steps to adopt and implement it." MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

#### **Adjournment.**

**IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS. SECONDED BY WADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 13:03 PM. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

**There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 13:03 p.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 13:03 p.m.

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Andrew Phay, note taker