

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

9:00 AM
October 28, 2019

MINUTES

Conference Room
6975 Hannegan Rd

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:00 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
Dawn Bekenyi, District Clerk/Auditor
Jean Fike, WSCC Regional Manager
Alex Hall, NRCS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OPEN SESSION (In person or written)

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Request approval of Minutes from September 23, 2019 meeting.
2. Request approval of September 2019 Financial Reports and ratification of September Accounts Paid as within FY2019 Budget.
3. Request authorization for the District Chair to enter into Standard form CREP State Reimbursement contracts with the following landowners:
 - a. Marie & Harry Hegarty
 - b. Patty Yust & Jeffery Popp
 - c. Gordon Bullivant
 - d. Chamisa & Casi Herrera, Brian & Abigail Kennedy
 - e. Becky & Just Martin
 - f. Frank Medearis
 - g. Caroline & Matt Sawicki
 - h. Leslie & Jennifer Heron
 - i. Dave & Heather Borland
 - j. Mark & Heidi Carlberg
 - k. Bill Post
 - l. Sandra Matheson
 - m. Danny Moloney & Cody Calhoun
 - n. Sarah & Steve Wesen.
4. Authorize Chair to sign as certifying a Dairy Nutrient Management Plan as implemented for Kevin Engelsma dba Meadow Park #2 dairy.
5. Request reclassification of S Graham with corresponding pay adjustment.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

Other Items

1. Set date Public Hearing to receive input on the date, time, place and manner of the next election to fill a supervisor's expiring term.

Board directed Dawn to advertise the November 12, 2019 meeting at 1:00 pm a resolution regarding the 2020 WCD Supervisor Election. Further official election information will be on our website.

IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS. SECONDED BY WADE:

To direct staff to advertise in the Bellingham Herald (the paper of major circulation) the supervisor election resolution meeting notice: The Whatcom Conservation District Board of Supervisors will hold a meeting at 1:00 p.m. on November 12, 2019 at 6975 Hannegan Road, Lynden, WA 98264 to adopt a resolution setting the date, time, place and manner of an election to fill a Conservation District Supervisor's expiring term. Please note: future election information will be posted ONLY on the Whatcom Conservation District website: www.whatcomcd.org/board-elections.

MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)

2. Confirming Quorum for November and December Board meetings.
Due to scheduling conflict the November and December Board meetings were rescheduled. Change November Board meeting to November 12, 2019 at 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm. Change December 20, 2019 at 9:00 am.
3. Consider Nominations for WACD Awards.
Discussed nomination recommendations for WACD Awards.

IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS. SECONDED BY SNYDAR:

To submit the proposed nominations for the Special Service Award, Building Bridges Award and Tribal Partnership Award, and direct staff to complete the paperwork.

MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)

4. Review Activities & timing for Long Range Program update and Rates & Charge.
A detailed timeline is being established now in preparation for pursuit of rates and charges. George is using the new Smartsheets platform project management feature.

The stakeholder outreach plan is being developed now – assembling list of people, groups and meetings that are important to reach, identify Board and staff leads, working on a PowerPoint, develop talking points, elevator speech, survey questions etc.

Alan asked how Supervisors can prepare to perform outreach and be able to answer questions from stakeholders and the public. Great discussion of what the goals of the public outreach process are:

- 1) Introduce the District to folks not familiar with our work (including both who we are and who we are not) probably using a video and/or power point.
- 2) Hear from folks what they want to see us work on – may be different or the same
- 3) Hear and make note of the way folks articulate their priorities, if we can talk about things in the ways they think about it, it will be more likely to resonate.

We watched the Better Ground 2 minute video as an example of how to describe what District's do for a general audience.

Education via videos or other means that can provide information to the public. Rather than have them come to our meetings, send messages to them.

Aneka gave a presentation to WC Council regarding CD and PIC program. Make WCD videos more prominent on website and in outreach efforts.

George discussed the difference between WACD NW Area and the PS Caucus. Invited Supervisor's to participate in the PS Caucus meetings.

Helpful to have the Team Leaders speak to the Board about their programs and the advancement of the Long Range Plan.

5. Review/Revise/Adopt/Reject Governance Culture Policies.
The District has been discussing possible adoption of a policy that would clarify roles and responsibilities within the board and between board and staff. This would then serve as a touchstone if folks drifted from the agreed-on lanes.

The Board has been looking at examples each month and discussing. Larry Davis provided Rick Maloney's putting Governance to Work; a Self-Help Guide as an earlier example. This month two policies from Spokane CD were discussed.

A conversation ensued. One of the challenges with the governance approach proposed is that the Board must first agree on and communicate clearly its intentions. Given a diverse Board of invested, expert individuals that may take some doing.

Language choice and how it can reflect different worldviews was a major topic of conversation. The term "natural resource" –which of course permeates the CD world- can be understood to convey the view that all facets of the world- soil, water, energy sources, wildlife etc. exist for the sake of human use. To avoid this connotation, the Board came up with alternative simple language that did not take sides in this potential cultural difference/conflict. As districts work more and more with a diversity of clients and stakeholders (and leadership) choosing the right language will become increasingly important.

GC2 was tabled until November meeting.

6. Review Area Resolutions advancing to the December WACD Annual meeting.
Larry Davis reviewed the resolutions and the discussions from the Area meetings that he attended.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Alex Hall, NRCS report. Reviewed activities and program funding for EQIP and RCPP projects of the local NRCS office for the upcoming next few months.

Other Updates - George explained the elections process for the group. This brought up the topic of elections discussions around the state. Larry reminded folks that November 8th is the deadline for commenting on the recommendations made by the CDEAC.

When discussion turned to various ideas bubbling up to more substantially alter the elections process, George offered to draft a letter voicing caution and alerting legislators to complexity of the elections issue. The Board could then decide if they would like to send to local legislators. Folks would like to see the results of the soon-to-be-released elections survey so that information could be incorporated. Valeri mentioned that she has been in conversation with Rep Shewmake about elections and the Representative asked what the cost would be.

Written Board reports provided by Alan Chapman.

Jean Fike – WSCC –

New survey about elections that we discussed (in addition to the one Larry mentioned see attached) along with talking points about elections is coming from the Washington State

Conservation Commission. Jean asked that Supervisors let the Commission know if you are hearing from or talking with legislators on this topic. Election survey going out to CDs to have filled out. One per District.

January 21st leg day, Jean shared information regarding supplemental budget requests they are: Match for Federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Amount requested: \$2,248,152

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): Technical Assistance and Riparian Buffer Incentive Program Amount requested: \$750,000

Stu Trefry is working on a project to develop improved Supervisor training/development materials and he'd like to hear from Supervisors about what subjects they would especially like to see, and how the materials should be provided, any feedback send to STrefry@SCC.wa.gov.

Record of Board Actions.

19-55 It WAS MOVED BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY SNYDAR TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).

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MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)

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MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)

Adjournment.

**IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS. SECONDED BY SNYDAR:
to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 pm.
MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Dawn Bekenyi, District Auditor