

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

9:00 AM
January 27, 2020

MEETING SUMMARY

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

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

Administrative Staff & Others in Attendance

- X George Boggs, Executive Director
- Dawn Bekenyi, District Clerk/Auditor
- Jean Fike, WSCC
- Alex Hall, NRCS
- X Aneka Sweeney, Outreach Coordinator

NRCS Report.
[NONE]

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. December Financial Reports and ratification of Accounts Paid.
2. Employee Step Increases for Corina Cheever from Band C2 Step 5 to Band C2 Step 6 and Dakota Stranik from Band C1 Step2 to Band C1 to Step 3 effective February 1, 2020.
3. 2020 Native Plant Sale & Expo Budget.
4. Inter-local Agreement with US Dept. Of Homeland Security for continuation of electricity to remote field station.
5. Amendment #1 to 2019 agreement with Whatcom Co. for Lake Whatcom HIP.
6. Agreement with Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Rec Dist. #2 to sponsor 2020 Chum Run.
7. Approval of and authorization for the District Chair to sign as approving Moderate Intensity Farm Plans for Rob Dahliwal and Brian Sigurdson.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

OTHER ITEMS

1. **Peaceful Valley Country Club Fuels reduction grant – Request to act as fiscal agent.** This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda. Fire Preparedness Lead Jenny Coe was invited in to discuss this item, her program in general and receive input from Board members.

IT WAS MOVED BY WADE AND SECONDED BY SNYDAR TO APPROVE SERVING AS THE FISCAL AGENT FOR THIS GRANT SUBJECT TO THE CONDITION THAT THE FUELS REDUCTION (CHIPPING) ACTIVITIES BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER THAT WOULD HAVE THE LEAST IMPACT TO WILDLIFE. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).

Minutes as presented at the February 24, 2020 Board meeting.

2. **National Association of Conservation Districts Dues.** After discussion of the merits of contributing to the National Assoc. of Conservation Districts and appropriate level of support, the Board concluded that continued membership was valuable to the district and directed staff to send \$400.00 as dues to NACD.
3. **Special District Elections Legislation.** After discussion,

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAPMAN AND SECONDED BY SNYDAR FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO COMMUNICATE THE BOARD'S SENTIMENT'S REGARDING HB2415 MAKING SURE TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- Acknowledge the need to improve the process and a willingness to contribute to the discussion;
 - Remove conservation districts from HB2415 to afford adequate time to identify solutions and avoid negative, unintended consequences;
 - The State Conservation Commission serves an essential role in ensuring the diversity of boards and accountability of conservation districts that should not be too readily discounted and cast aside; and
 - Any solution should recognize and accommodate the great variability in circumstances and constituents of the 45 conservation districts.
4. **Work on Long Range Plan of Work.** Staff was unavailable to facilitate this discussion due to illness so, this was continued until the next Board meeting.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

1. WACD legislative days were considered successful based upon the positive response of legislators. There was good exchange over the election process. Senator Ericksen and Representative Shoemake express intent to find funding to replace the District's engineer.
2. Alan had given the Tribal Partnership plaque to Lummi. A ceremonial meeting may be planned.
3. The Voluntary Stewardship Program may be expanded to allow participation by additional counties. Whatcom Co. PDS indicated support. Participation could lead to more resources to support farm planning and conservation practice implementation.
4. WCW PIC Program. It was related that quite a few landowners/operators were non-responsive to entreaties to participate in identifying and correcting potential pollution from their operations. They either looked problematic from the road or water quality monitoring suggested there were opportunities for improvement. The PIC managers were asking the Dept. of Ecology to provide a regulatory backstop. This would entail excluding the property as a potential source of pollution or ensuring solutions are installed and maintained if there was a problem. None support penalties for their own sake. Rather, the goal is just to fix problems that exist and eliminate from consideration those that are suspected but not actually problematic.

Record of Board Actions.

20-03 IT WAS MOVED BY AND SECONDED BY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).

1. December Financial Reports and ratification of Accounts Paid.
2. Employee Step Increases for Corina Cheever from Band C2 Step 5 to Band C2 Step 6 and Dakota Stranik from Band C1 Step2 to Band C1 to Step 3 effective February 1, 2020.
3. 2020 Native Plant Sale & Expo Budget.
4. Interlocal Agreement with US for continuation of electricity to remote field station.
5. Amendment #1 to 2019 agreement with Whatcom Co. for Lake Whatcom HIP.
6. Agreement with Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Rec Dist. #2 to sponsor 2020 Chum Run.

Minutes as presented at the February 24, 2020 Board meeting.

7. Approval of and authorization for the District Chair to sign as approving Moderate Intensity Farm Plans for Rob Dahliwal and Brian Sigurdson.

20-04 IT WAS MOVED BY CHAPMAN AND SECONDED BY SNYDAR FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO COMMUNICATE THE BOARD'S SENTIMENT'S REGARDING HB2415 MAKING SURE TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- Acknowledge the need to improve the process and a willingness to contribute to the discussion;
- Remove conservation districts from HB2415 to afford adequate time to identify solutions and avoid negative, unintended consequences;
- The State Conservation Commission serves an essential role in ensuring the diversity of boards and accountability of conservation districts that should not be too readily discounted and cast aside; and
- Any solution should recognize and accommodate the great variability in circumstances and constituents of the 45 conservation districts.

Adjournment.

**IT WAS MOVED BY CHAPMAN. SECONDED BY SNYDAR:
to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 am.
MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 11:40 p.m.