

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

9:00 AM
August 24, 2020

District Office – virtual meeting
6975 Hannegan Rd

MEETING SUMMARY

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT

Board Members

- X Heather Christianson, Chair
- 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
- X Dawn Bekenyi, District Clerk/Auditor

- Jean Fike, WSCC
- Alex Hall, NRCS

Roll call of attendees.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OPEN SESSION (In person or written)

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY CHAPMAN TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (4-0).

1. Request approval of Meeting Summary for July 27, 2020 meeting of the Board.
2. Request approval of Financial Reports for July 2020.
3. Request approval of Farm Plan Bozzo, Gill & Campbell; Certify Mendoza DNMP.
4. Request approval of Insurance and Board/Staff Bonds (\$3,659 above budgeted amount).

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

OTHER ITEMS

1. Lummi Nation Cost-share Request.

The Lummi Nation is requesting additional cost-share funds to expand the current harvest area by 12 acres. There was discussion about the project and proposed expansion.

It was moved by Chapman to approve the Lummi Nation Shellfish project cost-share request and submit it to the Washington State Conservation Commission for funding. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (4-0)

Minutes approved as submitted at the September 28, 2020 Board meeting.

2. Accounting Software Setup and Migration.

George explained that the bid from the consultant was approximately \$20,000. This is cost prohibitive. We are anticipating setting up the new accounting system for initiating on January 1, 2021. District staff will input and set up in-house.

Alan wanted to make sure that the reporting and analysis is set up. There was discussion about the accounting system set-up and workload required for staff.

3. WACD Matters – NW Area & Annual Meeting & Resolutions.

NW Area meeting - George reviewed the NW Area meeting structure and details. Work session on October 7, 2020 from 9:00 am to noon. The NW Area meeting is October 21, 2020 from 8:00 am ends no later than 2:00 pm. The invitation has been sent out to the Chairs of the NW Area and partners.

Resolutions – There was detailed discussion of proposed Resolution topics that can be drafted for Board consideration at the September meeting for approval to bring to the NW Area meeting.

Annual Meetings – There was discussion regarding the annual meeting, District participation and voting. It was proposed to have the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Annual meeting routinely as virtual meetings and have a physical meeting every few years to stay in touch. The WACD would need to change how officers are elected and have the officer elections when the meetings are in person.

Puget Sound CD Caucus – Currently there is not much participation by Supervisors at the Puget Sound CD Caucus. We are seeking reinvigoration of board Supervisor participation into the PS CD Caucus. Options of how to improve the Puget Sound CD Caucus were discussed. Vote to disband or reorganize into an active committee of the NW Area Association. Maybe meet more often as the NW Area Association. Look at the bi-laws and set meeting dates and gather Supervisor participation and the ability to vote for their District.

Reinvigoration of the NW Area Association. Meeting more regularly and have Supervisor participation. Maybe direct or govern the Puget Sound CD Caucus.

CDs video projects and share with each other and legislators as pertinent.

Draft bi-law change to be reviewed at the next Board meeting and brought to the NW Area meeting.

Dues Structure – There was a proposed option to a waiver provision to Conservation Districts that if they can't pay their dues, then they could still be able to vote at the WACD Annual Meeting. Larry drafted some language that he will share with the Board.

General Ballot – Election issue was unresolved at the last Legislative session. Discussed the election resolution from last year. Send resolution to the NW Area meeting. Conservation Districts would need to have the authority to get the money to pay for their elections. George will discuss with other Conservation District's about taking the lead on this matter. We can support their endeavors.

Minutes approved as submitted at the September 28, 2020 Board meeting.

Direction & Guidance to WACD Board of Directors & Executive Committee – Coordinate what local District's do so that decisions are based upon area recommendations, not just what the Director is focused on. Charge the Area Directors to provide input to the WACD board.

Consider Recommending that a portion of the WACD reserve funds be available to CDs with low cash flows allowing them to participate in reimbursable grants – WACD set up a revolving loan program for Conservation District's to participate in for cash flow. Low interest loan fund. Direct the finance committee to form a Revolving Loan Fund that CDs can use to apply for reimbursable grants. There was discussion of PMC reserve funds.

WACD Voting – At general membership meetings all votes on policy direction shall be one vote one District. Make sure that your Board members are representing the Area.

Subcommittee will meet to review prior to the September Board meeting.

Heather asked to have next Board meeting on Zoom to see what the functions are like. Voting functions provided through Zoom and other programs. Use Zoom You Tube videos to get familiar with the program. Possibility through Lynda program, free with your Bellingham Library card.

4. Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Discussion.

There was discussion regarding promotion of program participants, including farm plans.

George gave a presentation on Diversity, Equality & Inclusion. There was discussion from Board members on DEI.

Larry provided an update on the status of the Committee regarding DEI policy. He needs to discuss with Suzzi about providing information to the rest of the Board at the September meeting.

The Board would like to have more diversity on the Board. Previous tribal members on the Board were discussed.

DEI includes more than race and cultural heritage. It includes financial status. Need an end goal before you start off on the journey.

Add looking for funding opportunities for DEI to the duties of the subcommittee.

It was recommended to add to September Board meeting agenda.

5. Supervisor Reports.

Larry provided his monthly report. He completed 7 community outreach presentations. He will see if any others on his list are interested.

George will set up a doodle poll for a special meeting to discuss the resolutions and bi-laws changes. One hour or less meeting. Discussed details on the poll.

Alan also provided a written report.

Minutes approved as submitted at the September 28, 2020 Board meeting.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

None.

Record of Board Actions.

20-30 IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY CHAPMAN TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (4-0).

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20-31 It was moved by Chapman to approve the Lummi Nation Shellfish project cost-share request and submit it to the Washington State Conservation Commission for funding. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (4-0)

Adjournment.

**IT WAS MOVED BY CHAPMAN. SECONDED BY DAVIS:
to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 am.
MOTION CARRIED. (4-0)**

There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Dawn Bekenyi, District Auditor