

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

9:00 AM
September 28, 2020

District Office – virtual meeting
6975 Hannegan Rd

MEETING SUMMARY

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:04 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
- X Dawn Bekenyi, District Clerk/Auditor
- X Frank Corey
- X Jean Fike, WSCC
- X Alex Hall, NRCS

Roll call of attendees.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OPEN SESSION (In person or written)

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Request approval of Meeting Summary for August 24, 2020 meeting and September 22, 2020 special meeting of the Board.
2. Request approval of Financial Reports for August 2020.
3. Request approval of Step Increase for Katie Pencke effective September 1, 2020.
4. Request approval of Step Increase for Gabriella Mednick effective October 1, 2020.

Questions about the financials and step increases were discussed.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

OTHER ITEMS

1. Alex Hall, NRCS.

Alex was in attendance at the meeting and provided a report on EQIP and the National Water Quality Initiative funds for the two newly approved watersheds.

NRCS can't take walk-ins right now at their office. They have additional staff assisting them with their workload.

2. Survey Response: Addition of WDFW to WCC.

Minutes approved as submitted at the October 26, 2020 Board meeting.

The Conservation Commission sent out a survey seeking input on the possible addition of a seat for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife to the Washington State Conservation Commission Board.

The Whatcom Conservation District Board discussed how to answer the survey. Possible impacts of adding the seat and the board balance were discussed. Clarification of ex-officio officers and voting were also reviewed. Ex-officio does not mean that you cannot vote. It means that the agency is an automatic member of the body. It is up to the body to determine if they can vote. With the Washington State Conservation Commission ex-officio and all statutory members vote. There would be a majority of agency members on the board with the addition of the WDFW seat and the current make-up. Jean Fike offered information on the voting and request for membership.

George reviewed the options being outlined in the survey. Option 5 – no changes to the current Board members. Option 2 – Give WDFW a position and give WACD an additional position (at large option for the 4th).

Majority of the Board would like no changes, but if it were to occur we would like to add an additional CD representative member. WCD does not want to change the balance of the Conservation Commission Board.

George reviewed the memo attached to the survey. He filled out the survey with the board input.

Option 5 – yes. No – option 3, 4, & 1. Option 2 – yes

It was moved by Chapman to submit the Commission survey stating that it is the decision of the Whatcom Conservation District board. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (5-0)

3. Rain Garden Cooperator Agreements.

Snohomish CD has a grant to provide Rain Gardens in the Puget Sound Area. The project is to install raingardens in the Seamount neighborhood of Ferndale. Snohomish CD has a work crew to install the projects and plants will be purchased and installed in spring 2021. There was discussion about project costs and the Whatcom Conservation District's responsibilities.

It was suggested that staff document the project for the District newsletter and website. The Ferndale Record Journal wrote an article about the project. Hopefully there will be a follow-up article.

It was moved by Wade to authorize George to sign the Rain Garden Cooperator agreements. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (5-0)

4. Multi Benefit Buffers Grant Application Support.

Snohomish CD is the applicant and fiscal agent for project. Snohomish CD is submitting an application to NRCS for funding for riparian planting and request the Conservation Commission to request the Legislature to provide matching funds to the program for riparian planting or carbon sequestration plantings in San Juan, Whidbey Island, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties. These projects would be more broad than the CREP plantings.

Our District match and letter of support were discussed. George explained that it will give the landowner more flexibility to plant trees, which would be in support of the Whatcom County Executive's Million Trees planted goal.

It was moved by Snyder to submit the letters to the agencies regarding this project proposal. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (5-0)

5. WACD NW WA Area Resolutions Discussion.

George asked some administrative questions about how the portal worked for the Board members in getting the NW Area meeting resolutions for the work session. There are a few additional resolutions pending submittal that will be reviewed at the work session.

George review the resolutions that were presented to date. The Board reviewed and discussed the resolutions.

- Pierce CD – DEI work plan development for the WACD.
- Pierce CD – Shared Services from the Association.
- Snohomish Cd – One District, One Vote.
- Whatcom CD – NW Area Association of CD.
- King CD – DEI statement.
- King CD – Election Resolution.
- Whatcom CD – Revolving Fund Loan Program.

It was moved by Chapman to submit the Revolving Fund Loan program to the NW Area meeting for discussion. Seconded by Wade. Motion Passed. (5-0)

6. General Activity Report.

Reports for board information.

7. Supervisor Reports.

Larry and Alan submitted reports.

8. Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee Report.

Larry and Suzzi proposed language template.

Larry reviewed the Employee Manual proposed language change. Larry read the proposed change. Personal and professional growth. Chapter 3. EEO policy revision.

The WCD does not disclude anyone from asking for help. We may not be able to serve them under our current programs. Ultimately message to current and potential employees, that everyone is a customer.

George shared the Smartsheet dashboard that has links to the policies.

It was requested to put it on the next Board meeting agenda to adopt the Employee Manual language change.

9. Jean Fike, WSCC.

Jean reviewed implications in the open public meetings act for Supervisors and NW Area meeting.

Election Training session is scheduled for October 2, 2020. Alan Chapman's position is up for Election in March 2021.

Discussed plant sales from the WACD PMC for next year. Going forward on the basis of having a plant sale with current restrictions.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

None.

Record of Board Actions.**20-32 IT WAS MOVED BY SNYDAR AND SECONDED BY WADE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

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20-33 It was moved by Chapman to submit the Commission survey stating that it is the decision of the Whatcom Conservation District board. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (5-0)

20-34 It was moved by Wade to authorize George to sign the Rain Garden Cooperator agreements. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (5-0)

20-35 It was moved by Snyder to submit the letters to the agencies regarding this project proposal. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (5-0)

20-36 It was moved by Chapman to submit the Revolving Fund Loan program to the NW Area meeting for discussion. Seconded by Wade. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Adjournment.

**IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS. SECONDED BY CHAPMAN:
to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 am.
MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 12:03 a.m.

Dawn Bekenyi, District Auditor