

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

9:00 AM  
November 23, 2020

District Office – virtual meeting  
6975 Hannegan Rd

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:03 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  
Jean Fike, WSCC
- X Aneka Sweeney, Outreach  
Coordinator
- X Jenny Coe
- X Joshua Fleischman, Whatcom County

Roll call of attendees.

**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 Meeting Summary for October 26, 2020 meeting of the Board.
2. Request approval of Financial Reports for October 2020.

**REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA**

**OTHER ITEMS**

**1. Wildfire Risk Reduction Program and Education Update.**

Wildfire Risk Reduction Program – Jenny Coe gave an update on the Wildfire Risk Reduction program. Whatcom County Council will fund at \$50,000 for 2 years at the same level as last time. (\$25,000 per year.) The Board was thanked for their support in seeking funding for continuing this program by engaging with the County Council and others.

Minutes approved as presented at the December 28, 2020 Board meeting.

Jenny will give a presentation at the Natural Resources Committee for Whatcom County on the program tomorrow. Jenny gave the Board her presentation on the program and asked for feedback. Jenny answered Board questions regarding high risk area maps, forest fuel reductions and additional funding sources potentially with City of Bellingham.

Education Program Update – Aneka gave a presentation. No in-person gatherings or presentations this year with COVID. Aneka gave an update on how to work remotely with education efforts. Small Farm Expo was turned into on-line learning network. Aneka reviewed some outreach programs that staff developed in during 2020. She reviewed upcoming programs for 2021.

**Interlocal Agreements for 2021.**

There was discussion regarding the projects.

**2. Resolution to approve Interlocal Agreement with Whatcom County to deliver HIP.**

**It was moved by Chapman to approve for signature of the Whatcom County Lake Whatcom Homeowners Incentive Program (HIP) Interlocal Agreement. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**3. Resolution to approve Interlocal Agreement with City of Lynden.**

**It was moved by Chapman to approve for signature of the City of Lynden Interlocal Agreement. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**4. Resolution to approve Interlocal Agreement with Whatcom County to Provide Outreach & Cost-share programs for PIC.**

**It was moved by Chapman to approve for signature of the Whatcom County PIC Outreach & Cost-share Interlocal Agreement. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**5. Lummi/Nooksack NRCS application support.**

Lummi Nation and the Nooksack Tribe are applying to receive RCPP funding. They requested that the Whatcom Conservation District become a contributing member. The project would EQIP funding. They will need to rank their projects for funding. The budget was discussed.

**It was moved by Chapman to approve the letter for support for the RCPP project application for the Tribes. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**6. 2021 Election Resolution.**

There was discussion in detail about the Supervisor election process. After discussing the pros and cons, the board decided to require ballots be requested each election year to start with a clean list every year no hold over lists. Dawn was informed that due to COVID issues, WC Elections Department will not help count ballots. The Conservation District will count. There was discussion on counting. The ballots will be opened Wednesday am and following Monday to count. Details on the counting process will be worked out later.

Minutes approved as presented at the December 28, 2020 Board meeting.

**IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY SNYDAR to approve the Election Resolution as presented:**

Conservation District - **Whatcom CD**

Election Date – **March 23, 2021**

Election Method – **mail-in only due to COVID (upon request each election year)**

Polls – **none due to COVID**

Date and time ballots must be returned by – **March 23, 2021, 6:00 pm drop off box closes. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before March 23, 2021.**

Election Physical Address, location – **Whatcom CD office, 6975 Hannegan Road, Lynden, WA Mail-in ballot election by request only.**

Candidate filing deadline – **January 8, 2021, 4:00 pm**

Candidate filing location – **Whatcom CD office, 6975 Hannegan Road, Lynden, WA (use Whatcom CD drop box or on-line)**

Absentee ballot requests deadline – **February 8, 2021, 4:00 pm**

Location where voters can request or pick up absentee ballots (address) – **Whatcom CD office, 6975 Hannegan Rd, Lynden, WA. Mail-in ballot election by request only.**

**Voters can request ballots via phone or on the Whatcom CD website election page. Return mail-in ballots by mail or at the Whatcom Conservation District drop box located at the front of the building at the WCD Office.**

**Ballots will be mailed out after the Absentee Ballot Request Deadline and not available for pick up.**

Elected position – Supervisor up for election – **Alan Chapman**

Appointed position – **Larry Davis**

Election Supervisor (person at the CD responsible for the election) – **Dawn Bekenyi**

Election Supervisor email – **dlb@whatcomcd.org**

Election Supervisor phone – **360-526-2381 x 101**

Has the election supervisor attended or listened to the recording of the Commission's election training webinar – **Yes**

**MOTION CARRIED. (4-0 Chapman abstained.)**

**7. Surface Mining on Land Designated Ag/Forestry.**

Joshua Fleischman, Whatcom County Planner, discussed surface gravel mining on ag lands. There was discussion on a policy of how to handle reclamation of surface gravel mining on ag lands.

**8. Commission Budget.**

This year will be a tough ask for additional Operating Budget funds. The Commission asked for Board members to discuss budget with their legislators. There was discussion regarding timing for virtual meetings with the Legislature. The Board asked to have a report to show the benefits that the Conservation District has provided for the community. It was suggested that County Council can talk to legislature regarding Wildfire Risk program as well.

**9. Supervisor Reports.**

The resolution for WACD to develop a Revolving Fund was recommended Do Pass out of committee.

Heather and Alan are members of the Shellfish Committees. They discussed the District's role. The Shellfish Committees are reviewing Whatcom County's manure ordinance. And working on proposed revisions. George reported that we have shown success in using our planning tools and self-assessments.

Minutes approved as presented at the December 28, 2020 Board meeting.

Alan reported on developments in water settlement issues. He is following the Watershed Management Board and Council regarding water issues and suggested that the Board check on watershed management site of County website on watershed management.

Larry provided a written report.

#### **10. Executive Director Report.**

George is attending the Watershed Management Planning Unit and Council meetings regarding the water issues.

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual conference is \$50 and virtual this year.

#### **INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

None.

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

None.

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

#### **20-39 IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY SNYDAR TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

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**20-41 It was moved by Chapman to approve for signature of the City of Lynden Interlocal Agreement. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**20-42 It was moved by Chapman to approve for signature of the Whatcom County PIC Outreach & Cost-share Interlocal Agreement. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**20-43 It was moved by Chapman to approve the letter for support for the RCPP project application for the Tribes. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

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Has the election supervisor attended or listened to the recording of the Commission's election training webinar – **Yes**

**MOTION CARRIED. (4-0 Chapman abstained.)**

#### **Adjournment.**

**IT WAS MOVED BY CHAPMAN. SECONDED BY DAVIS:  
to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 pm.**

**MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

**There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.**

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Dawn Bekenyi, District Auditor