

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

9:00 AM  
December 28, 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
- X Jean Fike, WSCC
- X Aneka Sweeney, Outreach Coordinator

Roll call of attendees.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**OPEN SESSION (In person or written)**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Request approval of Meeting Summary for November 23, 2020 meeting of the Board.
2. Request approval of Financial Reports for November 2020.
3. Cheever Step Increase approval.
4. MOU with NSEA to develop watershed health element to NSEA’s Students for Salmon Program for elementary school children, \$5,000.
5. WCFCZD contract to continue Frank’s Assistance to Public Works Flood Division.
6. Resolution to approve Whatcom County Contracts for Education Outreach and Technical Assistance with Whatcom County Stormwater Programs.
7. Resolution to approve Whatcom County Water Use Efficiency Interlocal Agreement for Domestic-Municipal Water Use.
8. Authorize contract signature for contract extension from EPA for work with USGS to maintain real-time nitrate sensors on the Nooksack River and Fishtrap Creek.

Alan asked for more information about the EPA contract extension. He wanted to know if this monitoring contract was part of ZAPS program. All ZAPS machines in the county have been removed. This contract is to fund USGS to maintain and utilize SUNA monitor sensors.

Minutes approved as submitted at February 22, 2021 Board meeting.

## REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

### OTHER ITEMS

**1. Habitat Team Presentation.**

Frank gave a slide show presentation on habitat projects completed for the year as well as proposed projects for 2021. CREP 16 new projects planted prior to COVID early this year. 80 projects were maintained. 5 EQIP and RCPP projects with 8 fish passage barriers removed. Frank provided statistics on total projects, trees planted, acres and stream miles in CREP program since the program inception.

**2. Support for Better Ground Website.**

Snohomish CD is seeking support for the Better Ground Website. The Board reviewed the presentation and discussed what kind of support that Whatcom could provide to the project. The Board wanted to make sure Whatcom CD has a say in the content of the website, if we provide support. Staff is already engaged in the project and will continue to be so.

**It was moved by Chapman that the Whatcom Conservation District provide in-kind contribution of \$2,450 in the form of our outreach products, current and those that we produce as associated with the Better Ground Website program. And the group make sure that we receive a clear direction on what the program is providing to us. Seconded by Wade. The motion passed.**

**3. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.**

Tribal Treaties Statement. Board reviewed the draft and made comments and edits. It was decided to post a link of the Tribal Treaties Statement on the Whatcom Conservation District's website in the about us section.

The Board reviewed the difference between statements and policies. The first reading, second reading is for policies. They further discussed if this document is a policy or a statement. It was decided that it was not a policy.

**It was moved by Chapman to adopt the statement as edited with the placement on the Whatcom Conservation District's website. Davis seconded. The motion passed.**

**4. Governor's Budget.**

There was discussion regarding the proposed Governor's budget. CTA funding is important to Conservation Districts. Alan would like a letter in support of the budget, and that the CTA funding is important in Whatcom County be sent to our legislators. There was concern shown that there is little Technical Assistance for CREP program. There are a lot of projects and maintenance. There was discussion regarding the difference in capital and operating funds.

### **Executive Director and Supervisor Reports.**

**5. Auditor Report.**

The Whatcom Conservation District received another clean report this year. After discussion with the Auditor's office and concurrence from the Washington State Conservation Commission the Auditor's office changed our audit cycle to every three

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years for both Accountability and Financial audits. Dawn reviewed the notes of minor items shared by the auditor's office to address.

**6. DID#7 Drainage Issues.**

There are 14 Drainage Improvement Districts and 4 Diking Districts and 4 Watershed Improvement Districts. Small governing boards. FCZD provided some more funding for Frank to assist with the permitting for drainage projects. Several have asked for his assistance so far this upcoming year.

**7. Water Adjudication/Local Initiative funding request.**

Negotiators will be supported. Adjudication will take decades to accomplish.

**8. General Activity.**

**9. Supervisor Reports.**

**Larry Davis –**

Last meeting of the Ag Advisory Committee meeting about the proposal to increase the number of acres for surface mining operations on ag land. They are not in support of that. The Ag Advisory Committee is not optimistic that land can be returned to the productivity of pre-mining.

**10. Executive Director Report.**

George is setting up new accounting software for new year. We are hopeful that the new software will be able to provide more meaningful reports. George should be able to provide a budget status report for the first two quarters of the fiscal year at the January Board meeting.

The County renewed the agreements with us for 2021 programs. Governor's budget is encouraging.

George reviewed his workload goals for this spring. First finish accounting software. Compensation package and personnel manual. Annual Plan of Work due to the Conservation Commission in May. George will have Team Leaders provide feedback on deliverables and report how their programs integrate with the annual plan of work.

George informed the Board that he is going to retire at the end of the Fiscal Year (June 30). The Board was tasked with selecting a hiring committee. They asked for job descriptions for input on the position.

Larry had another public presentation on the Cordata Neighborhood. He has done a total of 10 presentations. He will also reach out to the granges.

**INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

None.

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

None.

**Record of Board Actions.**

Minutes approved as submitted at February 22, 2021 Board meeting.

**11-45 IT WAS MOVED BY CHAPMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

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8. Authorize contract signature for contract extension from EPA for work with USGS to maintain real-time nitrate sensors on the Nooksack River and Fishtrap Creek.

**11-46 It was moved by Chapman that the Whatcom Conservation District provide in-kind contribution of \$2,450 in the form of our outreach products, current and those that we produce as associated with the Better Ground Website program. And the group make sure that we receive a clear direction on what the program is providing to us. Seconded by Wade. The motion passed.**

**11-47 It was moved by Chapman to adopt the statement as edited with the placement on the Whatcom Conservation District's website. Davis seconded. The motion passed.**

**Adjournment.**

**IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS. SECONDED BY WADE:  
to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am.  
MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

**There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.**

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Dawn Bekenyi, District Auditor