

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

2:30 PM
August 23, 2021

District Office – hybrid meeting
6975 Hannegan Rd

MEETING SUMMARY

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT

Board Members

Administrative Staff & Others in Attendance

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

- X Frank Corey, Interim Executive Director
- X Dawn Bekenyi, District Clerk/Auditor
- X Larry Davis, Associate Supervisor
- Alex Hall
- X Nichole Embertson
- X Jean Fike, WSCC
- X Aneka Sweeney

Roll call of attendees.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OPEN SESSION (In person or written)

None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Request approval of Meeting Summary for July 26, 2021 and August 5, 2021 meetings of the Board.
2. Request approval of Farm Plans
 1. Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Lagerwey Dairy
 2. Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Vander Haak Farm
3. Request certification of Farm Plans
 1. Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Vander Haak Farm
4. Request to cash out unused accumulated leave

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

OTHER ITEMS

1. Financials.

The request approval of July 2021 Financials was moved to discuss separately from the Consent Agenda. The financial report was reviewed.

Minutes approved as submitted at the September 27, 2021 Board meeting.

Chapman moved to accept the July financial report. Motioned seconded by Wade. Motion Passed.

2. CTD Grant MOA Contract Signature for NACD grant.

Nichole Embertson received a grant from NACD for Center for Technical Development (CTD) work. Since Whatcom CD is administrator for the CTD, we need approval from the Board to accept the grant.

Snydar moved to approve and sign the grant agreement with NACD for the CTD activities. Seconded by Chapman. Motion passed. (4-0)

3. Research Team Project Update.

Nichole gave a presentation on her 2019 project, showing water quality through the different soil types. It shows how filtration works. She talked about the new CIG ag irrigation project that will allow water to flow and be retained when needed through irrigation tile systems. The system is only set up for grass fields, so there is no damage to the tiles with crop tilling or harvesting. The files are on the surface to show the water come to the surface. It is impractical to put 2 feet down. A producer can use/till fields around the monitor systems. This project is only on non-fish bearing ditches. It is not eligible for any fish bearing systems.

4. Snohomish CD – Farm Planning Contract.

Frank spoke regarding a potential source of funding for providing farm planning services to Snohomish CD.

Snydar moved to authorize Chair or Executive Director to sign the Inter-Local Agreement Scope of Work with Snohomish CD for farm planning services. Seconded by Chapman. Motion passed. (4-0)

5. Fall Outreach.

Aneka Sweeney reviewed the Outreach Teams fall/winter outreach efforts, such postcards, social media posts, videos and fall outreach events. Run with the Chums on Sept 11, 2021. Orca Recovery Day, October 16, 2021.

6. State Cost-share Funding Approval (Grant Addendums).

Frank shared the list of the Shellfish and NRI Cost-share projects submitted to the Washington State Conservation Commission for funding and those that have been awarded funding for Board acceptance and approval.

Chapman moved to accept the Shellfish and NRI funding and authorize the Chair to sign the cost-share contracts as they become available for signature. Snydar seconded. Motion passed.

Alan would like to review the ranking criteria before the next year. Heather suggested that the Board reconvene the committee to review and ranking criteria. Alan would like to get tribal input on their priorities. Frank suggested getting feedback from the Commission on their ranking criteria.

Minutes approved as submitted at the September 27, 2021 Board meeting.

7. COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

There was discussion about staff vaccination status. All but one staff member are currently vaccinated. State agencies and other agencies have a vaccination policy in place. The Whatcom Conservation District does not currently have a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

There was discussion about staff interacting with the public in the office and out in the field while still protecting staff and the public.

Heather has reviewed the policy that Western Washington University currently has in place and how it would translate to the District.

The District would need to set up an exemption policy in conjunction with a vaccination policy. There are two exemptions are always in place, medical and religious reasons. The more ambiguous area is a personal exemption.

It was discussed to check with Enduris to see if they have a draft policy for agencies to use.

Alan suggested that the policy should be to strongly recommended staff to be vaccinated. He asked about the District's liability if staff spreads the virus. Valeri asked how the District wants to present itself. You have to take some type of action to protect the public. Not mandated vaccine, but utilizing other protective measures, such as weekly testing, wearing a mask, education.

Heather will draft a COVID vaccination safety policy for review at the next meeting.

Executive Director and Supervisor Reports.**8. Jean Fike, WSCC.**

Jena gave some updates on activities with the WSCC. The WSCC's has new COVID mask updates. They are holding a statewide photo contest with CDs.

The biennium report is due Sept 24, 2021. It used to be the annual report.

The Conservation Commission meeting is now virtual for their next meeting.

9. Alan Chapman, WACD report.

WACD NW Area report. The NW Area meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2021 to be hosted by Skagit CD as a virtual meeting. They are setting up the agenda right now.

WACD report. The election resolution will be available at the Area meetings for review and comments.

WACD had a work session Board meeting. There was a discussion regarding job description and selection committee for replacement for Carol Smith at the WSCC.

The DEI Committee communicating, but have not come up with any information yet.

10. District Manager Search Update.

Minutes approved as submitted at the September 27, 2021 Board meeting.

Heather was able to talk with Brandi after she received the offer letter. Heather mentioned the requests from Brandi.

She would like a two weeks or 18 days annual leave bank coming in. The Board will offer 18 days of annual leave or 144 hours upon start.

Starting date up for discussion. She has consulting work through the end of September. Potentially set a start date for October 4, 2021.

She is requesting to work 2 days in the office and working remotely 3 days a week through the end of the year, if necessary.

Dog friendly office discussion.

Chapman moved to modify the original offer by the terms that were discussed, and author Chair to let the public know when/if she has accepted the offer and has been hired. Wade seconded. The motion passed.

11. Complete Bank of America signature card.

For those present.

12. Reports.

Heavy Use Area project packet was left for the Board to review.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

None.

Record of Board Actions.

21-39 IT WAS MOVED BY CHAPMAN AND SECONDED BY SNYDAR TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (4-0).

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31-40 Chapman moved to accept the July financial report. Motioned seconded by Wade. Motion Passed. (4-0)

31-41 Snyder moved to approve and sign the grant agreement with NACD for the CTD activities. Seconded by Chapman. Motion passed. (4-0)

Minutes approved as submitted at the September 27, 2021 Board meeting.

- 31-42 Snyder moved to authorize Chair or Executive Director to sign the Inter-Local Agreement Scope of Work with Snohomish CD for farm planning services. Seconded by Chapman. Motion passed. (4-0)**
- 31-43 Chapman moved to accept the Shellfish and NRI funding and authorize the Chair to sign the cost-share contracts as they become available for signature. Snyder seconded. Motion passed. (4-0)**
- 31-44 Chapman moved to modify the original offer by the terms that were discussed, and author Chair to let the public know when/if she has accepted the offer and has been hired. Wade seconded. The motion passed. (4-0)**

Adjournment.

**IT WAS MOVED BY CHAPMAN. SECONDED BY SNYDAR:
to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 pm.
MOTION CARRIED. (4-0)**

There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Dawn Bekenyi, District Auditor