

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

2:30 PM
September 27, 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

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

Administrative Staff & Others in Attendance

- X Frank Corey, Interim Executive Director
- X Dawn Bekenyi, District Clerk/Auditor
- X Larry Davis, Associate Supervisor
- Alex Hall
- X Corina Cheever
- 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 BERMAN AND SECONDED BY SNYDAR TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).

1. Request approval of Meeting Summary for August 23, 2021 and September 15, 2021 meetings of the Board.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

OTHER ITEMS

1. Farm Planning Team Report.

Corina Cheever gave a 2021 update for the WC PIC cost-share program which are small farm projects. She shared information about the project that were just completed for around \$12,000 cost-share and \$20,000 landowner match. There are four additional PIC cost-share projects to complete by the end of September.

Goal is to provide the technical assistance to landowners to install the practices that fit their farm. Then projects can be installed in phases to assist with landowner cost flow.

Minutes approved as submitted at the October 25, 2021 Board meeting.

Suzi suggest it would be good to follow up with how practices handled the winter storm weather.

Energize Whatcom program launched this summer. Sustainable Connections will do a review of your business to see if they are eligible for the rebate program. November 1 sign up deadline.

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

Corina shared that the WSCC Commission has funded another project from the Shellfish Cost-share projects submitted for Board acceptance and approval.

Berman moved to accept the Shellfish funding and authorize the Chair to sign the Washington State Conservation Commission Cost-share contracts as they become available for signature. Wade seconded. Motion passed.

3. WSCC Livestock TA Scope of Work Approval

Corina reviewed that the Livestock Scope of Work is the same as previous years with reduced deliverables to reflect the reduced funding for the program. The main focus of the funds is providing technical assistance and planning services.

Berman moved to approve the Livestock TA Scope of Work. Chapman seconded. Motion passed.

4. Financials.

The August 2021 Financials were reviewed. Lots of small grants. We track grants through Smartsheet for each individual grants. Team leaders manage each grants. Team Leaders track the deliverables on those grants each month. Harder to report those numbers to you.

It was requested to have a presentation on how Smartsheets grant tracking spreadsheets work for possibly for next month.

It was also requested to have a discussion regarding funds in all bank accounts and if those funds that are earmarked.

Wade moved to accept the September financial report. Berman seconded. Motion passed.

5. WACD NW Area Meeting.

Alan asked if there were any suggestions for the NW Area meeting.

The Board reviewed a copy of resolution from Skagit regarding NRCS riparian planting rates for discussion at NW Area Meeting. Frank reported that NRCS riparian planting rates are quite out of date. There rates reflect less than 10% of actual costs of projects. NRCS rates are intended to be 75-90% of actual costs. Revising rates should be looked at this year.

Valeri would like to see the resolution be more concise and have the deficiencies being addressed more clearly defined. The resolution should state very clearly what the problem is and how to address it.

Minutes approved as submitted at the October 25, 2021 Board meeting.

Frank volunteered to send Bill Blake, Skagit District Manager, some suggested language and examples for this resolution.

Alan pointed out that the time at the meeting is not adequate to discuss resolutions in detail. Alan asked if the Supervisors would be interested in participating in a meeting to discuss resolutions prior to the NW Area meeting. The Board agrees that it would be good, if it is set up and it fits into their schedules.

There will need to be a change to the WACD area bi-laws to allow virtual meetings.

6. WACD Annual Dues Payment.

WACD annual dues are due.

Wade moved to approve payment of the WACD Annual Dues. Snyder seconded. Motion passed.

7. Develop Task List for New District Manager.

Heather informed the Board that Brandy Reed has reviewed the counter offer and has accepted the terms. She will be full time in the office starting the new year. Three days a week after the initial 2-week full-time start on October 4, 2021.

There was discussion about the Board's top two or three priorities for Brandy's focus in her 30, 60, 90 day goals. The Board would like to have her learn the Whatcom Conservation District programs and staff and report back to the Board on her initial impressions at the October meeting.

Rates and Charges seems to be an important priority. Fred asked about the steps to initiate a rates and charge. Outreach to public, financial analysis of the work to do. Then the proposal goes to the Whatcom County Council for approval or change. It is a yearlong process.

The Board discussed how Brandy could interact in the community.

Alan would like to make sure that Brandy has a handle on the long range plan and goals/direction of the District before engaging in outreach with public. Understanding the programs and the funding and goals of those programs interacting with the Team Leaders.

Valeri would like her to get her face out in the community and connect in a get to know you way. Not necessarily discussing District programs with stakeholders.

Aneka would like to do outreach announcing the new District Manager. Both internal and external announcement. Inform primary partners, before a press release.

The Board asked to set up a welcome with flowers (provided by Frank) for Brandy's first day.

Alan suggested at the end of the two weeks have a special meeting with Brandy to follow up. Get her impressions and feedback. Heather will do a doodle polls for meeting availability to see if that needs to happen.

Minutes approved as submitted at the October 25, 2021 Board meeting.

Executive Director and Supervisor Reports.

8. Jean Fike, WSCC.

Cultural Resources Update and Election Resolutions. Kirk Robinson has been named as the interim Executive Director for the WSCC.

9. Alan Chapman, WACD report.

WACD had a Board meeting last Monday. No representation from the NW Area meeting. WACD PMC sales are ahead of previous non-COVID year.

Recommendations of the Tribal Committee were adopted. Bi-laws changes for terms, non-dues paying Districts participation. The DEI committee is working on some draft recommendations.

The WACD Annual meeting will be on November 30, 2021 as an in-person meeting with a virtual participation option.

10. Supervisor Reports.

Larry Davis –

NACD - The NACD annual meeting is still scheduled to meet in Orlando. But may be a virtual meeting. NACD will not do both due to logistics.

Washington Conservation Society –

Larry is President of the Washington Conservation Society. They are offering \$1,000 scholarships for high school students that are interested in schooling in conservation related field.

There was student tribal team participation in Envirothon this year.

The Washington Conservation Society decided to divide the Leaving a Legacy tribute to include living people as well as those that have passed.

11. Miscellaneous.

Frank Corey –

Supervisor Election – Due to the timing of the Board meetings it was suggested to adopt the election resolution at the October meeting.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

None.

Record of Board Actions.

21-45 IT WAS MOVED BY BERMAN AND SECONDED BY SNYDAR TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).

1. Request approval of Meeting Summary for August 23, 2021 and September 15, 2021 meetings of the Board.

Minutes approved as submitted at the October 25, 2021 Board meeting.

- 21-46 Berman moved to accept the Shellfish funding and authorize the Chair to sign the Washington State Conservation Commission Cost-share contracts as they become available for signature. Wade seconded. Motion passed.**
- 21-47 Berman moved to approve the Livestock TA Scope of Work. Chapman seconded. Motion passed.**
- 21-48 Wade moved to accept the September financial report. Berman seconded. Motion passed.**
- 21-49 Wade moved to approve payment of the WACD Annual Dues. Snyder seconded. Motion passed.**

Adjournment.

**IT WAS MOVED BY BERMAN. SECONDED BY SNYDAR:
to adjourn the meeting at 4:19 pm.
MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Dawn Bekenyi, District Auditor