

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

9:00 AM
July 27, 2020

Conference Room
6975 Hannegan Rd

MEETING SUMMARY

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM.

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT

Board Members

- X Heather Christianson, Chair
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, Habitat Team Coord
- X Jean Fike, WSCC
- Alex Hall, NRCS

Roll call of attendees.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OPEN SESSION (In person or written)

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Request approval of Meeting Summary for June 22, 2020 meeting of the Board.
2. Request approval of Financial Reports for June 2020.
3. Request approval of Farm Plan for TeVelde.
4. Request release of unused Commission Funds.

Moved Release Unused Commission Funds off Consent agenda for further discussion.

Release Commission Funds – discussion. George reviewed status of the Shellfish Cost-share projects. J Miller will not be completing the project and is returning the cost-share funds. George discussed the Technical Assistance funds allocated to each project and the estimated funds needed to complete the projects. Those funds deemed surplus will be returned. Natural Resources Investments Projects are completed; any remaining funds will be returned as unused.

It was moved by Chapman to release the Livestock Cost-share and Technical Assistance funds as outlined to the Washington State Conservation Commission. Seconded by Wade. Motion carried. (4-0)

Minutes approved as sent at the August 24, 2020 Board meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA**OTHER ITEMS****1. Letters of Support.**

The District received requests to provide letters of support for funding applications for a few projects. George reviewed the Whatcom Land Trust project and justification for the District to provide a letter of recommendation.

It was moved by Davis to approve the letter of support for the Whatcom Land Trust Project. Seconded by Wade. Motion Passed. (4-0)

Whatcom County – Floodplains by Design letter of support.

George reviewed the project application from Whatcom County to the Department of Ecology for the Floodplains by Design project.

It was moved by Davis to approve the letter of support for Whatcom County's Floodplains by Design project. Seconded by Wade. Motion Passed. (4-0)

2. Grant Scopes of Work.

There are two Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) grants that need Board approval of the scopes of work; Implementation (includes Orca Recovery technical assistance funding) and the Center for Technical Development (CTD) project. Both grants are the second year of the biennium projects. Capital funds project grants are closed out every fiscal year. George reviewed the proposed grant budgets. The proposed budgets are for six months, through December 31, 2020 per the WSCC.

It was moved by Wade to approve the Grant Scope of Work for the Implementation Grant FY21 and CTD FY21. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (4-0)

3. WACD Issues.

Alan Chapman is seeking input from other Conservation District's regarding the WACD's mission and priorities that are going to be reviewed at WACD's upcoming meetings. Larry Davis shared some overview comments and will provide detailed written comments to Alan to share with Tom Salzer and the WACD board.

There was discussion about the WACD Annual meeting; the proposed outcomes, goals, format (how to have it this year) and content of the meeting. Alan is involved in the content part of the meeting.

Alan outlined about how it would work for a full week for the annual meeting.

There was discussion about the WACD Northwest Area meeting. Whatcom Conservation District is hosting it this year. It will be virtual. A committee of Larry, Alan and George will organize this year's WACD NW area meeting.

It was moved to authorize the committee of Larry Davis, Alan Chapman and George Boggs to organize the WACD NW Area virtual meeting including content by Chapman. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (4-0)

Minutes approved as sent at the August 24, 2020 Board meeting.

4. Supervisor Descriptions on Website.

The Board asked about content on the Board page of the Conservation District's website. They want to make sure that it is up to date with current information. George suggested that Supervisors work with Aneka Sweeney about making updates to the webpage.

5. Long Range Plan Presentation Report. Update Community Input and discussions regarding the Conservation District.

Larry Davis provided a write up of his meetings with community groups.

6. Diversity, Equality & Inclusion.

Larry and Suzzi offered to be a committee of two to review the Diversity, Equality & Inclusion discussion for developing a District policy.

Larry shared NACD's Board of Directors Statement on Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity. He likes that it is not tied to any other particular groups. Larry is doing some more research on the issues. There is no specific draft policy to provide at this point.

Alan discussed how a policy may impact our geographical area with differently effected groups. He would like any policies to be in the positive rather than negative. What the District is for, not what we are against.

George and Supervisors discussed some resources to review on the matter.

There was discussion regarding what the District is or can do to make our programs universally available to all members of our community. George explained that there are grants that can be written to broaden our Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity.

George reported that staff would like to work with the Board about the principles and how to incorporate them in our work environment.

The staff is scheduled to have a training session on August 11 regarding how to have difficult discussions. The Board members were invited to attend.

7. Executive Director's Report.

George reported on frustrations with our current accounting software. George has contacted other Districts regarding their accounting and reporting systems. The Board was supportive of looking into shifting our accounting software.

George shared administrative staffing issues.

8. Jean Fike, WSCC.

Jean discussed the current budget cuts that were made and an additional 15% cut that is being asked for the upcoming biennium. The Commission is seeking Conservation District input on the additional cuts. Heather asked for clarification on the budget reductions.

Budget requests – Capital Budget requests are looking similar to historical requests. Operating Budget requests should be made less than historically, due to the current economic environment.

Minutes approved as sent at the August 24, 2020 Board meeting.

Conservation Districts are providing comments on the proposed Election WAC changes.

9. Supervisor Reports.

Alan Chapman –

Salmon Recovery & Ecosystem Recovery shared how terms can be interpreted by different groups. Discussed the dialogue and interpreting terms used by the groups.

Larry Davis –

Report provided.

Number of action items going forward. WACD action items. Resolutions for NW Area meeting. Invitation on providing input on how WACD operates.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

None.

Record of Board Actions.

20-24 IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY WADE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (4-0).

1. Request approval of Meeting Summary for June 22, 2020 meeting of the Board.
2. Request approval of Financial Reports for June 2020.
3. Request approval of Farm Plan for TeVelde.
4. Request release of unused Commission Funds.

20-25 It was moved by Chapman to release the Livestock Cost-share and Technical Assistance funds as outlined to the Washington State Conservation Commission. Seconded by Wade. Motion carried. (4-0)

20-26 It was moved by Davis to approve the letter of support for the Whatcom Land Trust Project. Seconded by Wade. Motion Passed. (4-0)

20-27 It was moved by Davis to approve the letter of support for Whatcom County's Floodplains by Design project. Seconded by Wade. Motion Passed. (4-0)

20-28 It was moved by Wade to approve the Grant Scope of Work for the Implementation Grant FY21 and CTD FY21. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (4-0)

20-29 It was moved to authorize the committee of Larry Davis, Alan Chapman and George Boggs to organize the WACD NW Area virtual meeting including content by Chapman. Seconded by Davis. Motion Passed. (4-0)

Adjournment.

**IT WAS MOVED BY DAVIS. SECONDED BY CHAPMAN:
to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 am.
MOTION CARRIED. (4-0)**

Minutes approved as sent at the August 24, 2020 Board meeting.

There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Dawn Bekenyi, District Auditor