



Whidbey Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 490 – 1 NE 4th St - Coupeville, WA 98239 - 360.678.4708 – www.whidbeycd.org

Public Meeting Minutes- DRAFT October 26, 2022; 9:00 AM – approx. 11:20 AM

1 Public Meeting

A regular meeting of the Whidbey Island Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held in person at the WSU Extension office meeting room with remote access via Zoom.

2 Attendance and Quorum

The following Supervisors, being a quorum of the Board, were present:

David Edwards - Chair

Mark Sytsma – Vice Chair

Gary Ketcheson - Auditor

Jennifer Abermanis – Board Learning & Development Officer

Jessica Aws -- Supervisor

Attendees:

Michelle Maynard – Finance & Operations Manager

Jean Fike-- Puget Sound Regional Manager

Alan Chapman – WACD NW Area Director

Robin Buckingham – NRCS Resource Conservationist

William Stelle – Member of the public

3 Call to Order, Welcome

Dave Edwards called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. All attendees introduced themselves to guest attendee William Stelle.

4 Public Input And/Or Comments

William Stelle has a deep background in natural resources issues and is a current member of the Whidbey-Camano Land Trust (WCLT) board. He joined the meeting to gain insights into WICD and to watch for points of common interest between WICD and WCLT.

5 Approval of Minutes from September 28th

Motion (1) – Jennifer Abermanis moved and Gary Ketcheson seconded the approval of the minutes from the September 28th Regular Board meeting as presented. Motion passed.

6 Partner Updates

- Jean Fike gave a WSCC report. She reminded the board of our ability to deputize an Associate Supervisor to vote at the WACD Annual Conference business meeting if a Supervisor is unable to attend. The total number of votes from a District cannot exceed five.
- Robin Buckingham gave an NRCS update.
- Alan Chapman joined the meeting late and gave a WACD report during the second hour of the meeting. Alan briefly discussed the resolutions that will be presented at the WACD Annual Meeting Nov. 28-30. *(Note: More information about the 2022 WACD Annual Conference can be found here: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/#news>.)*

7 Financial & Operations Report and Actions

- Financial Report – Michelle Maynard presented and reviewed the September 2022 Financial Report.

Motion (2) –Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the September 2022 Financial Report as presented. Motion passed.

- Board Meeting Dates. The board decided to change the day of the week of the monthly board meeting from the fourth Wednesday of the month to the fourth Thursday in order to accommodate Associate Supervisor candidate Stephanie Turco's future attendance. This change will begin with the January 2023 board meeting. Dave will work with Heather to create a list of board meeting dates for 2023 and will present it to the board for approval at the November board meeting.

8 Partnerships Report

- Dave gave a recap of the resolutions passed at the WACD NW Area Meeting held on Oct 11, 2022. Mark and Jennifer added their comments as well.
- The supervisors discussed attendance at the upcoming WACD Annual Conference. Dave asked Michelle if WICD had budgeted for supervisors to attend the WACD conference virtually, and Michelle said money was earmarked for that purpose (*Note: The fee is \$100 for the entire organization to attend the Monday and Tuesday sessions virtually. Virtual attendance at the Wednesday Business Meeting is free of charge.* <https://form.123formbuilder.com/6010385/form>). Mark said he is willing to attend in person. The board agreed that the District should pay for Mark's meeting attendance and travel-related expenses.

Motion (3) – Jennifer Abermanis moved and Gary Ketcheson seconded the board's approval to pay the expenses for one Supervisor to attend the WACD Annual Conference in person, that Supervisor being Mark Sytsma.

- The board discussed its overall approach to Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI). The board's consensus was that DEI is an important issue to WICD, and the supervisors discussed a plan for studying the issue and integrating DEI into the board's internal and external activities. Dave said he would invite WACD NW Area Director and WACD DEI Committee member Chris Porter to our November board meeting to discuss the committee's work on DEI over the past two years and any lessons he's learned applying DEI principles in his home district, King CD.

9 Board Leadership and Development

- Jennifer presented the survey questions she and Jessica have prepared as a board self-evaluation instrument. The board discussed some ideas to fine-tune the questions and decided to limit the people to whom the survey will be sent to the board members, Heather, and Jean Fike.
- Beginning in November, Jennifer will present a Board Leadership & Development topic at each monthly board meeting. The intent of these sessions is continuing education for supervisors and to help "[b]uild Board capacity and expertise to ensure strong leadership and oversight" per Goal 3/Objective 2 of the 2022-2027 WICD Long Range Plan.

8 District Staff Report

- Heather was absent from the meeting due to illness. She submitted her monthly staff report to the board beforehand via email.
- Michelle discussed the District's plans for the upcoming Annual Native Plant Sale.

9 Meeting Adjourned at approximately 11:20 AM

10 Other, Upcoming Dates and Review of Motions

October 28 WICD Staff Retreat – Office Closed
November 11 Veteran's Day – Office Closed
November 16 WICD Board Meeting
November 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed
November 28-30 WACD Annual Meeting in Wenatchee
December 21 WICD Board Meeting
December 25 Christmas Day Holiday – Office Closed

Review of Motions:

Motion (1) – Jennifer Abermanis moved and Gary Ketcheson seconded the approval of the minutes from the September 28th Regular Board meeting as presented. Motion passed.

Motion (2) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the September 2022 Financial Report as presented. Motion passed.

Motion (3) – Jennifer Abermanis moved and Gary Ketcheson seconded the board's approval to pay the expenses for one Supervisor to attend the WACD Annual Conference in person, that Supervisor being Mark Sytsma.