



Whidbey Island Conservation District

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

Public Meeting Minutes May 23, 2024; 5:03 PM – 7:22 PM

1 Public Meeting

A regular meeting of the Whidbey Island Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held in-person at the Organic Farm School's Feed & Seed Building (6312 Maxwelton Road, Clinton) with a Zoom option.

2 Attendance and Quorum

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

David Edwards – Chair

Mark Sytsma – Vice Chair

Gary Ketcheson – District Auditor

Jennifer Abermanis – Board Learning & Development Officer

Attendees:

Stephanie Turco – Associate Supervisor

Teri Jo Summer-Reiger – Associate Supervisor

Torrey Olson – Associate Supervisor

Jean Fike – WSCC Regional Manager

Heather McCoy – Executive Director

Michelle Maynard – Finance & Operations Manager

3 Welcome, Introduction to OFS

Executive Director Judy Feldman welcomed the group and gave an overview of the Organic Farm School and its diverse programs.

4 Call to Order, Welcome

Dave Edwards thanked Judy and called the meeting to order at 5:30. He welcomed Stewardship Forester Collin McAvinchey and everyone introduced themselves.

5 Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2024

Motion (1) – Jennifer Abermanis moved and Gary Ketcheson seconded the approval of the minutes from the April 25 Regular Board meeting as presented. Motion passed.

6 Partner Updates

Jean Fike shared Commission updates including (1) SCC Commissioners confirmed Dave Edwards' appointment and Jennifer Abermanis' election at the May Board meeting; (2) the Commissioners also reviewed the progress of the Commission's strategic plan; (3) Year-end funds have been distributed (including \$20,000 to WICD); and (4) the Commission has just filled the Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resiliency coordinator position and are currently interviewing for the Riparian Grant Program coordinator role.

7 Financial & Operations Report and Actions

- Financial Report – Michelle Maynard presented the April 2024 reports.

Motion (2) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the April 2024 financial reports as presented. Motion passed.

- FY2025 Budget Proposal – Michelle presented the FY2025 budget for approval.

Motion (3) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the FY2025 Budget as presented. Motion passed.

8 Annual Work Plan

- Heather shared the public comments for the initial draft of the FY2025 Annual Work Plan and presented the final draft for approval.

Motion (4) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Mark Sytsma seconded the approval of the final draft of the FY2025 Annual Work Plan as presented. Motion passed.

9 Board Business & Actions

- Board Education Series – Jennifer gave her impressions of the May presentation and asked for feedback.
- Future presentation topics – Jennifer confirmed that the next talk will be focused on water availability on Whidbey. She has contacted the Island County hydrogeologist as the potential speaker.

10 District Staff Report

- District Staff Report – Heather answered questions related to the staff report.
- Livestock and Regenerative Agriculture – Gary led a discussion about the potential need for a way to connect livestock farmers with farmland on Whidbey. The Board determined to create an ad hoc committee to explore this need and/or existing solutions. Gary, Mark and Steph volunteered for the committee.

10 Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:22 PM

11 Other, Upcoming Dates and Review of Motions

May 1-15	Draft Annual Work Plan – Public Review Period
May 13	WICD Board Continuing Education (10am, Zoom)
May 16	SCC Regular Meeting
May 23	WICD Board Meeting (Annual Work Plan & FY2025 Budget Approval)
May 29-30	WACD Spring Legislative Workshop (Ellensburg; Heather attending)
May 30	FY2025 Annual Work Plan & Budget dues to SCC
June 10-12	WADE Annual Conference (Leavenworth; Heather, Collin & Jennifer attending)
June 27	WICD Board Meeting
June 30	End of FY2024

Review of Motions:

Motion (1) – Jennifer Abermanis moved and Gary Ketcheson seconded the approval of the minutes from the April 25 Regular Board meeting as presented. Motion passed.

Motion (2) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the April 2024 financial reports as presented. Motion passed.

Motion (3) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the FY2025 Budget as presented. Motion passed.

Motion (4) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Mark Sytsma seconded the approval of the final draft of the FY2025 Annual Work Plan as presented. Motion passed.