



Whidbey Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 490 – 1 NE 4th Street, Coupeville, WA 98239 - 360.678.4708 Fax: 360.678.2271

Public Meeting Minutes October 24, 2013 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

1 Public Meeting

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Whidbey Island Conservation District was held at the District office, 1 NE 4th Street, Coupeville.

2 Attendance and Quorum

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

Wendi Hilborn - Chair

Tim Keohane – Regular member

Tom Fournier – Auditor

Fran Einterz – Regular Member

Also in attendance:

Karen Bishop - District Manager

Sandy Welch – Office Administer, Treasurer

Ken Drecksel – Farm and Forest Conservation Planner

Sarah Cassatt – Public Information and Resource Planner

Tony Sunseri – NRCS District Conservationist (by phone)

Stu Trefry - Regional Manager, WA State Conservation Commission (by phone)

3 Call to Order and Welcome

Wendi Hilborn, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

4 Minutes

Supervisors reviewed the Sept. 26, 2013 regular board meeting minutes.

Motion (1) Fran Einterz moved to approve the 9/26/13 regular meeting minutes. Motion passed.

5 Financial Report – Sandy Welch

Sandy presented the Sept. 27 – Oct. 24, 2013 financial report. Fran said that he had found errors in the way the budget to actual report was calculating, which Sandy has fixed.

Motion (2) Sarah Richards moved to approve the Sept 27 – Oct. 24, 2013 P & L, voucher report including vouchers #4761 – 4792 (\$28,562.22), POS purchases (\$260.05), and EFTPS (\$5,274.42), Unemp and L& I quarterly (641.57) all totaling \$34,738.26. Motion passed.

Motion (3) Tim Keohane moved to roll over the CD with the FY13 year-end cash balance for 30 days. Motion passed.

6 NRCS Report – Tony Sunseri

Tony said that in spite of the government furlough, many people were able to get practices completed. Tony discussed changes which may be coming to the RMS (Resource Management System) planning process where contracting priority could be given to farms doing full farm contracts. Tom Fournier asked Tony to check on the status of the WICD/NRCS Operating Agreement.

7 Category 3 Cost Share Report

Ken Drecksel reported that the District is working on the Bethany Ridge cost share project. The proposed NRCS Practice to be implemented in Code 367 – Roofs and Covers. The practice lifespan is 10 years. Staff is meeting this week with an Engineer. The project will need to be permitted by Is. Co.

8 WSCC Report – Stu Trefry, Regional Manager

Stu reminded the Board to schedule the 2014 Supervisor election. He also asked whether the board had reviewed the good governance checklist. Karen will send this to the board. Stu said that they will be inspecting Category 3 projects from FY13 on a random basis. The Penn Cove Farm project was selected for review.

9 WACD Report

Tom Fournier reported on the Northwest Region Districts meeting held in Port Townsend in October. Sandy Welch was honored as N.W. Region District Employee of the Year! Karen was asked to follow up on the status of the dues subcommittee for WACD. Supervisors decided to send 2 board members and 1 staff to the Annual WACD Meeting at Cle Elum in December.

Motion (4) – Fran Einterz moved the WICD send two board members and one staff to the 2013 WACD Annual Meeting in December. Motion passed.

10 Staff Reports

District Manager Report – Karen Bishop

Karen said that WICD would be receiving \$20,000 from WSCC for Livestock Planning this year. She briefed the board on Maxwellton Farm/ Island County legal action which was recently in the newspaper. Karen said that she had been asked to serve on the strategic planning committee for the fairgrounds property. She is also heading up a group to assist Is. Co. in developing a temporary event permit that works for farms that are holding rural events – an important agri-tourism component in the business plans of several farms.

Public Information and Resource Planner Report – Sarah Cassatt

North Whidbey CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Report – Sarah said that there were 26 subscribers this year, including 19 regular members and 7 Navy families. A sign-up list indicates over 30 people are interested in this program for next year. Sarah shared the income and expense summary which indicates the project is not yet able to support itself. However, the level of interest indicates this could happen in the future. WICD hopes for support for this project from NABC (Northwest Agriculture Business Center) through a Rural Cooperative Development Grant for one more year.

Whidbey Island Farm Tour – Surveys indicate around 4000 farm visits this year, averaging 4 – 5 visits per farm. 15% (150 people) of visitors indicated they stayed in paid, local accommodations. One farm had sales of over \$7,000.

Forest Stewardship Class – Sarah is participating in the 10-week evening class, co-sponsored by WSU, DNR, and WICD - that includes 30 hours of training. 20 people are attending, representing 15 ownerships representing 266 acres of land.

Grant Opportunities – Sarah said that WICD staff is exploring several different projects to submit for the upcoming round of DOE NEP (Ntl. Estuary Program) funding. Applications are due Jan. 2014.

Office Administrator, Plant Sale Coordinator – Sandy Welch – Sandy reported that the plant sale online ordering system was going online at the end of October.

11 Upcoming Dates, Review of Motions, Adjourn

Action Items

Motion (1) Fran Einterz moved to approve the 9/26/13 regular meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Motion (2) Sarah Richards moved to approve the Sept 27 – Oct. 24, 2013 P & L, the voucher report including vouchers #4761 – 4792 (\$28,562.22), POS purchases (\$260.05), and EFTPS (\$5,274.42), Unemp. and L& I quarterly (641.57) all totaling \$34,738.26. Motion passed.

Motion (3) Tim Keohane moved to again roll over the CD with FY13 year-end cash balance for 30 more days. Motion passed.

Motion (4) – Fran Einterz moved the WICD send two board members and one staff to the 2013 WACD Annual Meeting in December. Motion passed.

Next Board meeting – November 21 (third Thursday)

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.