



Whidbey Island Conservation District

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Public Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1 Public Meeting

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

2 Attendance and Quorum

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

Wendi Hilborn – Chair
Sarah Richards – Vice-Chair
Tom Fournier - Auditor
Ed Adams – Regular Member
Tim Keohane – Regular Member (by phone)

Also in attendance:

Karen Bishop - District Manager
Sandy Welch – Office Administer, Treasurer
Ken Drecksel – WICD Farm and Forest Conservation Planner
Jared Hamman, NRCS
Mary Collier, Intern, NRCS

3 Call to Order and Welcome

Wendi Hilborn, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
Jared Hamman introduced his guest, NRCS Intern, Mary Collier.
A resolution regarding formally adopting NRCS as Best Available Science was added to the board agenda.

4 Minutes

Motion (1) Ed Adams moved to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2015 meeting. Motion passed.

5 Financials

Sandy Welch presented the financial report. Karen Bishop discussed the July 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015 budget to actual report with the board.

Motion (2) Tom Fournier moved to approve the May 29 – June 25, 2015 P & L and voucher report including vouchers #5292 – 5317 (\$30,567.76); POS purchases (\$2,336.66); and EFTPS for monthly 941 payroll tax (\$5,583.26) all totaling \$38,467.68. Motion passed.

6 WSCC Master Contract

Motion (3) Wendi Hilborn moved to approve the WSCC Master Contract between WICD and WSCC which will be in effect for FY16 and FY17. Motion passed.

7 NRCS Report

Jared Hamman reported that NRCS is working to implement the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in 3 watersheds where Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) money is assigned to watersheds and ranking criteria is determined by watershed. New sign-ups are taken nationally each year. Jared said that District Conservationist, Tony Sunseri is leaving for his new position in Idaho and Kathy will be acting District Conservationist.

8 WSCC Report

Shana was unable to join the meeting. The legislature is close to reaching a state budget for the biennium. If the budget is not approved, WICD will operate on local funding until state funding is approved.

9 Cost Share Policy

Karen Bishop explained that a new Cost Share Resolution must be approved by the board for WSCC Cost Share funds to be approved for the new biennium. Karen recommended increasing the landowner labor rate to \$20.00 per hour as recommended by WSCC. Currently the policy pays 75% of eligible expenses, not to exceed 100% of project cost.

Motion (4) Tom Fournier moved to approve Cost Share Policy Resolution No. 15_06_1, stating that WICD will provide cost share to landowners at a rate of 75% for NRCS approved management practices. Landowner labor rate will be set at \$20.00 per hour. Motion passed.

10 WADE Report

Ed Adams discussed the training track that he attended at WADE for new Supervisors. He also checked that the District was aware, through IRS Code, donations to districts receive the same tax treatment to donors as do donations to a 501©3 organization. Karen said she would send information on this IRS Section 170 code to the board.

Karen discussed her new responsibilities as incoming state WADE President. Supervisors asked that hours and travel be tracked by the district. Karen will include some of this time in the WSCC scope of work for FY16.

11 NRCS as Best Available Science

Karen updated the board on the status of the Critical Areas Update for Agriculture in Island County to be compliant with Growth Management requirements. Bruce Gordon put together a resolution of the board which was sent to Island County to explain the criteria NRCS meets to be accepted as Best Available Science (B.A.S.). Karen said that the Snohomish CD board passed a similar resolution.

Motion (5) Sarah Richards moved to accept the resolution defining NRCS as accepted Best Available Science for agricultural for natural resource protection. Motion passed.

12 Farm Plan Presentation –Ken Drecksal

Ken Drecksal presented an (Resource Management System (RMS) level farm conservation plan for approval.

Motion (6) Wendi Hilborn moved to approve farm plan 6_15-1. Motion passed.

13 Staff Reports

DOE/WICD Agreement – Karen updated the board on recent conversations with Dept. of Ecology (DOE) regarding the district's role when DOE either 1) receives a complaint or, 2) finds a violation in an agricultural setting on Whidbey Island. The Board is concerned about managing workload in the event that DOE priorities may not align with WICD priorities. The Board feels that if the situation is urgent, there should be DOE funding for complaint investigation and intensive work with the landowner. In any case, the landowner's decision to work with the district must remain voluntary as an option to enforcement action by DOE. Karen will relay this information to DOE and invite them to an upcoming district board meeting.

14 Year End Projects

Karen updated the board on the recent file archiving and mapping project status as well as the recent purchase of a new projector and iPad.

Motion (7) Sarah Richards moved that the district pay for the WIFI connection and monthly fee for the new district iPad. Motion passed.

13 Upcoming Dates, Review of Motions, Adjourn

Dates:

Motion (8) Tom Fournier moved to change the upcoming board meeting date from Thursday, July 2 to July 30 in insure a quorum. Motion passed.

July 30, 9:00 – 11:00 WICD Board Meeting, WICD office

Motions:

Motion (1) Ed Adams moved to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2015 meeting. Motion passed.

Motion (2) Tom Fournier moved to approve the May 29 – June 25, 2015 P & L and voucher report including vouchers #5292 – 5317 (\$30,567.76); POS purchases (\$2,336.66); and EFTPS for monthly 941 payroll tax (\$5,583.26) all totaling \$38,467.68. Motion passed.

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Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.