

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: November 12, 2019 Meeting, 1 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Ed Blok Jeff De Jong Landon Van Dyk
 Rod Vande Hoef Rolf Haugen

Henry Bierlink Meg Harris Fred Likkel
 Alan Chapman Steve Jilk Sherm Polinder
 David Haggith Dan Noteboom Jake De Hoog
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Landon opened the Board of Equalization Hearing. No comments or protests were noted. Ed moved to close the hearing at 3:05, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of October 15 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Ag Water Board	Oct - Dec	\$13,237.26
N3	Aug, Sept	\$862.50
Enduris	Insurance	\$3,032.00
	TOTAL - Month	\$17,131.76

Jeff moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Landon and Rod are the only nominees. Congratulations!

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management pilot – Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton – meetings of technical committee begin this month, Tribes are both at the table in each pilot. The schedule has been drafted to complete these pilots by July. Future drainages will be considered based on the success of the pilots. The Water Supply committee of the AWB will be closely connected with Fred and Henry in this process. WID Boards will be updated each meeting and will solicited for feedback and advice.
- b. AWB Grant from Ecology - \$150k for 2 years – scope expected to be approved in November.
 - Develop Project Lists – surface to ground and augmentation potential sites
 - Implement 2 conversions, 1 augmentation project
- c. South Fork organization options – best choice is likely a parcel by parcel annexation into S Lynden. Henry was directed to prepare an annexation petition for consideration once the S Fork farmers are ready to take this step.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Floodplains by Design – Reach 2 will be an initial focus area. Fred was optimistic about a contact within WDFW’s Estuary program who is reaching out to ag. He noted that the recent reports indicate the Lower Nooksack has 50% of its habitat potential yet only 7% of the potential fish numbers. He reported on a recent meeting where the NW Indian Fisheries Commission had listed three new “H’s” of concern for fish – Habitat Buffers, Hatcheries, and Harbor seals.

- b. Buffers – Fred was less enthusiastic about reports that the Tribes and Governor Inslee were preparing to mandate 170’ buffers on all streams. We don’t have details on this proposal but need to be alert if it is introduced in the 2020 Legislature.
- c. Ditch maintenance – Landon raised the question of purchasing some ditch mowing and cleanout equipment that the SLWID could make available to its landowners. Landowners on Cougar Creek make sure this area is clean each year and this example is worth imitating. Regular maintenance other than spraying was supported by all. Purchasing equipment or hiring a contractor was debated. A conversation with the DID’s in our area seems to be the best start for advancing a program that builds on our 5-year permit and creates a regular drainage maintenance program for both regulated and farmer owned ditches. Frank should be invited to this conversation as well. Learning from other areas – Skagit, BC, Holland, was suggested.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David reported some high numbers after the first fall flush.
- b. DNA project – Fred and Meg were at a recent meeting where this was discussed. They had a sense there was progress but the idea remains in the research and development phase. Fred will get Kent to speak to a future WID meeting.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Data is not supporting a lifting of the fall closure of the shellfish beds in Portage Bay. However, Drayton has another 400 acres of beds reopened. The board was invited to celebrate this fact at a Shellebration Event in Blaine December 13th, 4-6 pm.
- d. ZAPs – a question about the status of these devices led Meg to report that all have been terminated. They just couldn’t make the needed adjustments to provide reliable data.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.southlyndenwid.com
- b. AWB Newsletter – a draft was reviewed for the January AWB newsletter.
- c. WFF – REAL campaign – Farmer Rally November 21

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. WCD Long Range Plan – Henry alerted the Board to discussions at the WCD about long-range funding of its programs. George has asked if the CD could have some time at the January or February WID meetings. WCD is considering asking for a Countywide property assessment to provide stability in funding its programs. They receive a small amount of support from the State. The large majority of its services are grant and contract funded. Options for funding include both a per parcel and an acreage assessment.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

December 10 – likely cancelled
January 14

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____