

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 14, 2017 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

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

Henry Bierlink Frank Corey _____ Fred Likkel
 David Haggith Joel Ingram _____ Jake De Hoog
_____ Aneka Sweeney Heather McKay _____ Sherm Polinder

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of January 10 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1				
2017 Assessments Received		\$390.28		
Fund Balance 1/1/2017		\$53,984.07		
Fund Balance 2/1/2017		\$54,374.35		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$54,374.35
Outstanding bills:				\$5,306.67
Ag Water Board <i>Feb AWB Admin</i>			\$4,434.67	
Ag Water Board <i>sponsorships</i>			\$200.00	
N3 <i>Water quality monitoring</i>			\$672.00	
End of Month Balance				\$49,067.68

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	53,216	8,869.34	44,346.66
Projects	21,109	872.00	20,237.00
Insurance/Adm	4,191		4,191.00
	78,516	9,741.34	68,774.66

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

II. Old Business

A. Ag Water Board report

- Legal - Lummi Settlement Negotiations – Ed and Jeff noted that “partnership” remains an elusive goal but the Portage Bay Partnership was moving down the road in the right direction. The two lead farms have been identified. Agreement on the technical experts has been more difficult. They are working on a Scope of Work for the experts that will be advanced by both the Tribe and the farmers.

B. Comprehensive Plan development

- Priority setting – Heather gave a short overview of how the Sumas WID plan is developing including the Outline and list of Action Items and goals. The board will review this draft and gain a sense of how this might work for the SLWID.
- Joel and Frank presented a watercourse classification map and discussed how the WCD may be able to help develop a Programmatic Drainage Permit. This was initiated by a project on Ritter Road. The work to get that project permitted

would be very similar to the work for developing a WID wide plan. The Programmatic 5-year Plan would serve as a component of the larger WID Comp Plan. The Scott DID already has this permit but the rest of the WID is not covered. Jeff moved to engage Frank to help us draft a 5-year permit and to cover the permit fees not to exceed \$3,000, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- All WID meeting to discuss Comprehensive Plans and strategies is planned for March 21st. Fred has gained approval from the Conservation Commission to get help from facilitator Rey Ledgerwood to advance WID plans and actions. He is available on March 21st and other WIDs have suggested an all WID meeting where Comprehensive Plans, Strategies, and Action Items are both jointly discussed and then broken into each WID discussions. Plans are being made to cancel March WID meetings and to focus on this agenda for March 21st.

IV. New Business

A. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Culvert replacements - <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/fishpassage/> - it is clear that replacing culverts can be a more attractive mitigation for drainage work than tree planting and maintenance. EQIP has dollars to help farmers with culvert replacement which could bank mitigation for the WID.
- DID #21 plans are to maintain a small assessment and low scale maintenance.
- Roger Blok is proposing a drainage improvement project on Ritter Road and is enrolling in CREP as partial mitigation for this work. Frank suggested that a full mitigation should include denser plantings and the additional cost approached \$6k. Rod moved to approve \$2,000 from the SLWID to help assist with mitigation, Jeff seconded, motion carried 3-0-1 with Ed abstaining.
- Joel suggested that a culvert replacement project north of Badger Road is an example of what could be banked at mitigation once a Plan and Permit was developed.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results were generally good. The Mead Road tests were dramatically improving.
- ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – calibration has proven to be more difficult than planned. The high numbers in the fall were not generally correlated with lab tests.
- Exact Scientific – source tracking technology is purchased but little movement on testing local e coli sources.
- Report on landowner contacts – landowners along Mead Avenue and DOH were contacted.
- David noted that the WID data has not been included in the County's Water Quality summary data presented online each month.

C. Water Quantity

- Legislation in Olympia – Bill provided a list of water bills with some highlights on bills that are making progress in the system. HB 1885 seems to be the preferred option for our famers as it fixes both *Hirst* and *Foster* and has bipartisan involvement.
- Water Supply Strategy draft is being worked on by the AWB Water Supply committee.
- Whatcom Water Supply Coalition – meets the third Thursday of each month. More water work is coalescing in this partnership which includes the cities, the County, PUD, AWB, Water Districts, and Water Associations. Birch Bay's Deep Aquifer project reports there as does the Drought Response Taskforce, and increasingly the Lummi Infrastructure project.

- Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project – the first well was not a productive as hoped but the second well has exceeded expectations in volume and quality. Another well is being drilled shortly.
- Water Bank grant application – The AWB is submitting an initial application for helping to develop Water Banks to the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program administered by WSDA. The project follows initial work of this nature done by the Snoqualmie WID and helps develop the mechanisms to move water both seasonally and permanently between farmers and other water suppliers.
- Storage – Ed noted that the gravel pits on the east end of our WID might be able to serve as storage basins for the River. We could pump water into the pits during high flows and return the water to the River (or Scott Ditch) during low flows and provide water for the interruptible rights on the River. WID members and Henry will talk to Chuck Lindsay about the feasibility of this idea and develop an estimate of the costs of pursuing it if it seems possible.

D. Education

- WSU Water Workshop – February 22
- Website www.southlyndenwid.com

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

March 21 All WID meeting

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____