

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: Feb 14, 2023 Meeting, 3 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85289621995> Meeting ID: 852 8962 1995

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Blok	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff De Jong	<input type="checkbox"/> Landon Van Dyk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Vande Hoef	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> “Pablo” Esquivel	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel
<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault
<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelley Macy	<input type="checkbox"/> Anna Beebe
<input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Reed	<input type="checkbox"/> Patricia Mullett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ross Widener

x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

Jeff called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

I. Consent Agenda

a. Review and Approval of January 10 Minutes

b. Financial Report

Voucher #	Payee	Purpose	Amount
SL0223	AWB	March, April AWB	\$14,124.20
SL0223	AWB	WID loan fund	\$50,000.00
SL0223	N3 Consulting	December sampling	\$741.00
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$64,865.20

c. Rod motioned to approve the consent agenda. Pablo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

a. Oath of Office – Landon will be sworn in next month

b. Loan to Sumas WID

i. The proposed system of transfer was changed into an interlocal agreement with AWB, SWID, SLWID, and BWID

ii. BWID and SLWID lend \$50,000 each to AWB, which in turn lends \$100,000 to SWID

iii. There was an addition of a 60-day callback on the funds in the agreement

iv. Terms of the agreement is Feb 1 through Dec 31, 2023

v. Ed motioned to move forward with the loan of \$50,000 following the stipulations laid out in the interlocal agreement. Rod seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

a. Ecology adjudication budget request and proposed legislation

i. Bill Clarke provided testimony on 2/14 AM on proposed bill to amend adjudication RCW to give parties up to 1 year to file, and up to 3 years to provide supporting evidence

ii. Expectation is that adjudication will be filed in Fall 2023

iii. The goal would be to have an Indian water rights settlement in place prior to that 3 year deadline

b. Budget proviso – tech data and adjudication assistance

i. Funding has been requested for local technical assistance. AWB plans to be involved in setting up details of how that assistance would be provided

c. Project List

i. Meeting with out-of-stream water users will likely be moved back to early April. Plan is for proposals to be vetted at that meeting

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

a. Flood update

- i. Reach 5 FLIP Team will be meeting in late April, when modeling should be completed. Reach 3 has been moved down the priority team for FLIP, and likely won't be addressed for a few years
- b. Ditch maintenance
 - i. WCD requests for Hans Wolfisberg to use SLWID biological habitat assessment shoreline exemption for project on Timon Rd
 - i. Project would fall under Agricultural and Watershed Enhancement Plan
 - ii. Would cover a ditch and provide an outlet. Would improve water quality, since outflow of ditch has seen higher counts in the past, and reduce maintenance, since ditch was filled with debris during Nov 2021 flood
 - iii. Rod motioned to allow Hans to use the programmatic shorelines exemptions from SLWID for the project. Ed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Buffers
 - i. Fred provided a positive update on legislative action on buffer bills. The current bill has support from farmers and tribes, and is only opposed by the governor's office.
 - ii. WCD Buffer proposal
 - i. Tristen completed calculations on SLWID buffer map that was presented at previous meeting. There were 65 miles of green stream length, 65 miles of yellow, and 109 miles of red.
 - ii. Frank suggested Kamm Creek, Mormon Ditch, and Scott Ditch as priority areas for SLWID to pursue buffers
 - iii. Discussion followed on methods to motivate private landowners to participate in voluntary buffer programs
 - 1. Ross suggested that it might be possible to sell mitigation credits to other local entities or agencies to provide additional financial motivation
 - 2. It was mentioned that one potential benefit to reasonable-sized buffers is that they may provide certainty in buffer size in those areas on the future. However, that would likely take longer to finalize than the two-year window that is being discussed in this case
 - iv. Frank will come back to the next meeting with a map that identifies landowners in high priority areas so that some of these conversations can get started
 - iii. Ross and Patricia presented a project that was proposed in Feb 2022 by the City of Sumas and City of Everson to do a large-scale levee & habitat setback on the mainstem of the Nooksack
 - i. The project is purported to provide flood mitigation, and could provide options at the Everson Flow Split to manage flow amounts in either direction
 - ii. The cities of Sumas and Everson would prefer the WIDs to be the designated agency to manage the projects if they can acquire funding, since the majority of the work would be outside city limits
 - iii. The west bank of the proposed project area is in SLWID, and the east bank is in SWID

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David presented sampling data which showed that the numbers look good. Anna mentioned that the county water testing has been doing dye testing on septic systems following recent high counts in Scott Ditch near Thiel Rd, but haven't gotten any resolution on the issues.
- b. DNA testing – Exact Scientific Services is happy with their ability to define fecal coliform source. The only weakness in DNA identification at this point is human sources, so they would like funding for sampling of human sources (~\$2500) to add to their database. They have requested that funding from the county.
- c. Fred shared a conversation with a WDFW staff member who mentioned that there are more options for using hunting to keep waterfowl off of farmland in order to protect cover crops and water quality.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.southlyndenwid.com

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Jeff adjourned the meeting at 5:06 PM. Next meeting is Tuesday, March 14 at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____