

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: October 14, 2021 Meeting, 3 pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 813 2405 2152 Passcode: 678482

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

 t Henry Bierlink _____ Dale Buys x Fred Likkel
_____ David Haggith t Bill Clarke t Jay Chennault
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

Landon called the meeting to order at 3:01.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of September 13 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

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

II. Executive Session – Landon called the meeting into Executive Session at 3:04. Discussion with legal counsel on authority of WIDs and potential litigation – up to 30 minutes. (Board members only). Landon called the meeting back to order at 3:34.

III. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Rolf needs to be nominated. He is willing but will also seek to see if another landowner would like the responsibility. Jeff moved to nominate Rolf, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously. If Rolf nominates another landowner he will decline the nomination.
- b. AWB Budget request – lower than 2021, encouragement for WIDs to budget for water right acquisition, project development, and legal reserve to address adjudication.
- c. 2022 Workplan & Budget
 - Resolution 2021-1 – Setting the 2022 Assessment Rate and Budget
 - Resolution 2020-2 – Adopting the 2022 Assessment Roll
 - November 9th Board of Equalization

DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE – all Watershed Improvement Districts

Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – two positions in Bertrand, one in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, one in South Lynden, and one in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o'clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.

2) Inspect the 2022 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in Laurel will be heard at 10am, November 8th; for Bertrand at 2pm, November 8th; for Sumas at 1pm, November 9th; for South Lynden at 3pm, November 9th; for North Lynden at 9am, November 16th; and for Drayton at 3pm, November 16th, all at the District's office or via Zoom. Contact the WID administrator for access to the meeting@ info@agwaterboard.com. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 12th to November 5th.

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts' offices located at 204 Hawley Street, Lynden.

Public Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 13, 20, 27

The Board stressed the need to show value to farmers for the assessments collected. Any increase should be justified by additional services provided. The large increase planned for our project budget has been targeted for items such as legal research on flow claims, acquiring water rights for the WID, and providing technical information for support of water rights claims. A letter to all

WID parcel owners should make the purpose of the increase clear. It should explain what we have done and what the increase will allow us to do.

Jeff moved to set the rate at \$10/acre, Ed seconded, motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate
 - October 21st Watershed Mgt Board mtg
 - Solutions Table discussion with Jay and Maia
 - Project proposals from Tribes, PUD, Land Trust, and AWB
- b. Project List – add, edit, prioritize – focus on surface to ground conversions – Jay will provide a list of surface water rights tied to current ownership. The board was challenged to review this list with consideration of the size of the right (likely over .5 cfs to significant enough) and complexity of making the transfer (fewer unrelated owners).
- c. Water Rights list – develop strategy to obtain rights – Jay will provide a complete list of rights tied to current ownership within the month. The board is challenged to locate rights that may be underused or in danger of relinquishment.

V. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance – Ed reported the Scott Ditch project was complete.
- b. DNA – question about the access to DNA testing – we believe the new work could enlighten us on the probably source of contamination. Fred will check on the costs of running the tests.

VI. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred reported the PIC program has begun a Scott Ditch Area of Focus. Some high counts in late September associated with high rain events.

VII. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.southlyndenwid.com
- b. Family Farmers Rally – November 17th

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Meeting was adjourned at 5:12. Next meeting is November 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____