

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – June 11, 2024

## Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

| <b>Board – Present</b>  | <b>Board – Absent with Notice</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Rod VandeHoef (t)<br>Jeff DeJong<br>Landon VanDyk<br>Pablo Esquivel | Ed Blok                           |

| <b>Staff and Consultants</b> |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                  | <b>Organization / Affiliation</b> |
| Gavin Willis                 | Ag Water Board                    |
| Fred Likkel                  | Whatcom Family Farmers            |
| Jay Chennault (t)            | AESI                              |
| Elizabeth Hayes              | Whatcom Conservation District     |
| Sarah Faubion (t)            | AESI                              |

| <b>Other Guests</b> |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>         | <b>Organization / Affiliation</b> |
| John Courtney (t)   |                                   |

## Proceedings

Landon called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from April 9 meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial report and voucher in the amount of \$23,595.51 was reviewed.
- d. Jeff moved to approve the consent agenda. Rod seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an adjudication update.
  - i. The initial hearing scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup> is about 3 things:
    1. A process for attorneys to provide notice of appearance.
    2. A process for how initial motions would be sent to parties of record.
    3. Claims form and approval by court of summons.
      - a. It is unclear at the moment if ECY's proposed claims form will be filed before the June 26<sup>th</sup> hearing.
  - ii. As the hearing will be livestreamed, Gavin will send link to June 26<sup>th</sup> hearing out to board members.
  - iii. AWB has requested that the Department of Ecology ask the court to set a deadline for claims form submission that doesn't coincide with the busy season for farming.

- b. Jay noted that water rights office hours have been going well. 24 people participated on May 31<sup>st</sup>, and 31 people signed up for June 12<sup>th</sup>. Have set up system that auto-generates a bunch of information when people sign up.

### **3. Drainage / Habitat / Flood**

- a. Fred provided a FLIP update. Seem to be making progress on combining different modeling methods that look at both sediment levels and impacts to water flow.
  - i. A lot of activity north of the border: Canadian government elected to not provide disaster relief funds, class action lawsuit against City of Abbotsford for alleged poor flood management practices was certified, and a report out of UBC suggested that Lake Sumas is allowed to reform.
- b. Gavin noted that buffer letters should be going out soon. State riparian roundtable work group had a first draft of their report which suggested SPTH buffers.
- c. Beaver trapping was discussed
- d. Gavin floated the idea of a grant program for drainage projects on private land in the WID. WID grants to landowners could be used as a local match for funds from NRCS or other federal/state sources.

### **4. Water Quality**

- a. Elizabeth provided a WQ update. May 22<sup>nd</sup> had some high counts, June 3 follow-up testing looked at E. coli. Doesn't appear to be any dairy issues, but some letters going out to OSS.
- b. Some discussions locally related to WQ have been related to follow up on downspouts from barns, which may see a lot of bird activity on rooftops. Elizabeth noted that previous best management practices were to route downspouts into drainage ditches.

### **5. Education / Communications**

- a. Fred noted that the next WFF water rights education event is scheduled for October 22. WFF is seeking sponsorships for the event.
  - i. Jeff moved to spend \$1000 to sponsor the Oct 22 water rights educational event. Pablo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **6. Next Meeting**

- a. Next scheduled meeting dates are July 9, August 13, and September 10. Summer meetings may be cancelled if there are no agenda items.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_