South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – April 11, 2023, 3 PM

Board Attending:

__x__ Landon VanDyk	__x__ Jeff DeJong	__o__ Pablo Esquivel
__x__ Rod VandeHoef	__x__ Ed Blok	

Others Attending:

__x__ Gavin Willis	__x__ Henry Bierlink	__x__ Fred Likkel
__t__ Anna Beebe	_____ Shelley Macy	__x__ Frank Corey
__t__ Alan Chapman	_____ Bill Clarke	__t__ David Haggith

x – present   o – absent with notice   t – teleconference   p – proxy

Landon called the meeting to order at 3:03.

1. **Consent Agenda**
   a. February 14 minutes were reviewed.
   b. Financial report was reviewed.
   c. <u>Jeff moved to approve the consent agenda</u>. Rod seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Ag Water Board / Water Supply**
   a. Henry provided an update on adjudication issues in the legislature
      i. HB 1792 has passed the legislature and is on the Governor's desk
      ii. With regards to the Budget proviso, the Senate had the full request in their budget, and the House only had 50%. Will find out soon what the results of the budget reconciliation are
   b. Gavin and Henry will be meeting with the out-of-stream water users group on April 26th. The goal is to vet proposals from the project list there, and take them to the Watershed Management Board for approval. It is unlikely that the first meeting of the group will get that far.
   c. The WMB has requested comments for their new 5-year plan. Henry drafted a first response to the survey. Discussion followed about how much we should look to the WMB as the entity to resolve water issues. Board members expressed that agriculture should be a significant point of emphasis for the plan given the interconnectedness between ag and water. A viable water supply for agriculture in order to support local food security should be a component of the WMB plan. Board members also expressed that a consensus model for the WMB may be an impediment to action and minimizes the inventive for useful input from other parties.

3. **Drainage / Habitat / Flood**

a. Fred mentioned the FLIP team meeting on April 28. So far the modeling has not pointed towards any solutions for the flow split due to the changes of sediment levels and river bottom elevations during high flow and flood events.

b. The small cities had pushed the county for more action on flood management. Modeling is moving forward on potential action items to study their viability and impacts.

c. Frank shared a list of potential buffer locations. Discussion followed on the marshy portion of Kamm Creek, and what a buffer might look like there.

    i. Question from a board member about beaver management as a part of buffer implementation. That is a question that the WID would need to be prepared to answer if it is promoting voluntary buffer programs.

        1. Further discussion followed related to beaver dam removal; the WID has an HPA that allows them to do that.

d. A draft letter from the WID to the State Conservation Commission was shared supporting flexibility in the riparian buffer program. Staff will continue to refine the letter.

4. Water Quality

a. David and Anna shared water quality sampling results. Scott Ditch showed some high counts, but county staff have been unable to identify the source. Board members shared that some of the high counts are in areas where no manure spreading has occurred, and suggested that the high counts may be due to avian influences.

    i. Past minutes from Nov. 9, 2021 showed that David has been authorized to spend up to $1000 each year on DNA testing.

b. Shellfish district does not have any updates at this time.

5. Education / Communications

a. Gavin provided an update on the Carbon Tax issue where farms are not receiving the exemption that they are entitled to. The result is an additional cost to farmers of 50-70 cents per gallon. A legislative fix looks unlikely at this point.

b. Website – southlyndenwid.com

6. Other Items from Commissioners

a. None

7. Next Meetings

a. The next meeting is scheduled for June 13th at 3 PM.

Landon adjourned the meeting at 4:33.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____