

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 11, 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 Steve Jilk Frank Corey
 David Haggith Dan Noteboom Sherm Polinder
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of February 14 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		\$3,819.94		
Fund Balance 3/1/2017		\$39,231.41		
Fund Balance 4/1/2017		\$42,661.07		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$42,661.07
Outstanding bills:				\$10,439.01
Ag Water Board <i>Feb AWB Admin</i>			\$8,869.34	
Ag Water Board <i>website fees</i>			\$225.67	
N3 <i>Water quality monitoring</i>			\$1,344.00	
End of Month Balance				\$32,222.06
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	53,216	17,738.68	35,477.32	
Projects	21,109	2,216.00	18,893.00	
Insurance/Adm	4,191	225.67	3,965.33	
	78,516	20,180.35	58,335.65	

Jeff moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- A. Review and approve Priority Issue and Activity lists

Accomplishments	Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
Water quality testing...some things did not make sense	1. Water Quality	Work with resources on DNA sequencing	
Worked on known problems		Continue water quality testing	
Talking with fellow farmers regarding water quality			
Worked on water banking concept, storage of water for later use, deep well possibilities,	2. Water Rights	Work on water rights...obtain, distribute water rights...lobby to get it done	

Protecting water rights			Address use it or lose it
Supporting AWB			
Drainage issues and river running through our area	3. Drainage	Complete 5 -year Programmatic Plan	completed
Ditch spraying			
Possibilities of improving drainage of the river	4. Flood Management	Gravel removal, interaction with County Flood Mgt	Funding concerns due to use of flood fund for other purposes
Comprehensive plan development			

The issues and priorities developed at the All WID Planning meeting were reviewed and amended.

- B. Update Comprehensive Plan - the outline for the Sumas plan was reviewed. Jeff moved to contract with Heather for \$2,000 to complete a similar draft for the South Lynden WID, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- C. Annexations – none are being considered this year.

III. Water Quality

- A. Monitoring Results – WSDA numbers showed areas of concern. Other numbers are very good especially in light of the challenging circumstances. Mead Road numbers are still puzzling.
- B. ZAP units – one has been approved on the Fishtrap at the LCHS salmon site. The site at the PUD has not yet been calibrated to have confidence in the data. Hanna at Lummi is the contact for it.
- C. Exact Scientific – source tracking technology – Rep. Buys is trying to find some State money to support the \$150k need for developing samples to be used to calibrate the testing equipment.
- D. CAFO Permit – a few are likely to apply for it. A training session on the permit is planned for April 26th.
- E. Portage Bay Partnership report – debate over Experts continues. Some progress on the horizon.
- F. Report on landowner contacts – 2 farms were contacted about water quality concerns.
- G. The WCD has alerted farmers to an opportunity for more cost share to expand storage.

IV. Water Supply – Henry offered to delay this portion of the agenda to ensure the review of the Drainage Plan had enough time for discussion. There was discussion of some of these items at the end of the meeting. The next meeting will address them more thoroughly.

- A. Olympia Report – fate of ESSB 5239
- B. Whatcom Water Supply work group
 - Lummi Infrastructure project
 - Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project
 - Ground water Modeling
 - Drought Contingency Plan
 - Action Plan
- C. Ecosystem Recovery Plan – Whatcom response to Puget Sound Partnership [http://wrialproject.whatcomcounty.org/Get-Involved/Whatcom-Local-Integrating-Organization-\(LIO\)/Whatcom-LIO-Ecosystem-Recovery-Plan/120.aspx](http://wrialproject.whatcomcounty.org/Get-Involved/Whatcom-Local-Integrating-Organization-(LIO)/Whatcom-LIO-Ecosystem-Recovery-Plan/120.aspx)
- D. Watershed Planning Unit – learning phase – summary of plans and actions being developed
- E. Water Bank application

V. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Ditch maintenance – no discussion

- B. Culvert replacements – the WDFW map of culverts and blockages was displayed. The idea of getting culverts fixed and banking the mitigation for future ditch maintenance projects was appealing.
- C. 5-year programmatic permit – Frank presented the South Lynden Programmatic Permit and relevant permit applications needed to complete the full application (i.e. SEPA). The County has agreed to waive over \$1,000 in permit fees because the SLWID will agree to do the monitoring on the projects. The permit covers the entire WID. Individual projects under the permit will need a specific Notification of Activity to the County and a Mitigation plan with WDFW. Landon moved to approve the application, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously. To facilitate the application process Jeff moved to appoint Henry as the authorized agent, Landon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

VI. Education/Communications

- A. Website - www.southlyndenwid.com
- B. Tour – Ed suggested the Board take some time to tour around the district and get a better sense of areas that are less familiar to the board members. The project on Ritter Road should be included in this tour.

VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Legal – Bill Clarke continues to provide legal services and education support in Olympia on a monthly retainer.
- B. AESI instream flow report – Chuck Lindsay’s team has been hired to provide a clearer understanding of how to look at the In-Stream Flow settings on the River and tributaries. They should have a report prepared in the next two weeks.
- C. Strategy review – the list of strategies and actions for the AWB that was generated at the Planning Workshop was distributed. Input should be provided to Rod, the AWB representative from the WID.

Strategy	Lead
Communication/Outreach	
Preserving the “one voice” outreach...continue work with key partners...work together to defend agriculture and get the word out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom Family Farmers – Fred, specific partners – e.g. public affairs people in organizations • Story specific for information • Brad & Rich
Communication and community outreach...message in positive way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
Habitat for species...telling people what farmers are doing to benefit habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Legal	
Continue to identify legal access to water supply...acquiring, getting water where it needs to go	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Henry, Chuck, Greg
Work together on tribal negotiations on water quality and supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation Team, Fred, Greg • Needs expanded and probably a different team as supply is addressed
Legal challenges, and holding them off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry
Quality	
Work together on funding for and implementation of DNA testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David – N3, Landon, Kent,
Water quality projects and how it effects our industry...improving and communicating xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred, • See above
Drainage	
Get permits faster and eliminate some of the paper work – 5 year Programmatic Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karin, Frank, Joel, Henry, Fred
Supply/Access	

Water quantity projects and ability to have water long term for future generations...mitigation banking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry
<i>Organizational/Administrative</i>	
Tracking legislation, rule making, agendas, and impacts at County, State, Federal levels...agriculture representation on committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry, Bill, Fred, partner individuals
Utilize the influence system of collective WIDs including messengers and skills development (training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom Family Farmers
Organize the listing of committees and groups to get agriculture representation on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry, Fred and members

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:05. Next meeting is May 9 provided a quorum can be generated. Farmers will likely be pressed for fieldwork at that time.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____