

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: January 10, 2023 Meeting, 3 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86829950805?pwd=OXdhMk1MTUtLMUhOTmNCUhd0ckRvdz09>

Meeting ID: 868 2995 0805 Passcode: 011197

  x   Ed Blok                        x   Jeff De Jong                        o   Landon Van Dyk  
  x   Rod Vande Hoef                x   “Pablo” Esquivel

  x   Henry Bierlink                       Dale Buys                        x   Fred Likkel  
  t   Alan Chapman                  x   Gavin Willis                        t   Jay Chennault  
       David Haggith                       Bill Clarke                        x   Frank Corey  
  x   Aneka Sweeney                  t   Shelley Macy                        x   Tristen Simons  
  t   Brandy Reed                             Sherm Polinder  
*x = present*                      *o = absent with notice*                      *t = teleconference*

Jeff called the meeting to order at 3:04.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 8 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

|                      |                |                     |                    |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| SL0123               | AWB            | Jan - Feb AWB       | \$14,124.20        |
| SL0123               | AWB            | HPA fee             | \$316.26           |
| SL0123               | N 3 Consulting | Sept - Nov sampling | \$2,531.75         |
| <b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b> |                |                     | <b>\$16,972.21</b> |

Ed moved approval of the Consent Agenda after reviewing the minutes and financial report, Rod seconded, motion passed unanimously.

### II. Administrative

- a. Oath of Office – Rod was sworn in. Landon will be next month.
- b. Election of Officers: President, Secretary, AWB Representative – Rod moved to keep Landon as President, and Jeff as AWB representative and Vice-Chair/Secretary, Ed seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- c. Loan request from Sumas WID – The board directed Henry to prepare the necessary documents to loan \$50k to the Sumas WID via the AWB. They asked that there be a 2-month callback for funds should they become needed by the SLWID. They will formalize the agreement next month.

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
  - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement as one option.
  - Ecology adjudication budget request may be packaged with guidelines for the adjudication and support for alternative settlement processes.
  - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – forming an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - AWB establishing – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – recent mtg with Ecology indicates we can do some our water right protection strategy without creating a formal bank. But we will still be pursuing it as an option if needed.
  - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – likely this summer after we see the status of the adjudication and have the parameters of the Exchange established.
  - Follow-up with key acquisition candidates as were identified by the WID Board last spring.

#### **IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. Flood update
  - Flood Advisory Committee – Jeff alerted the board to the need to fill open positions on the Committee.
- b. Ditch maintenance – should have our priority cleaning areas to the County by March.
  - HPA is completed and filed. Thanks Frank!
  - Moorman Ditch – still uncertainty on who did the work this fall
- c. Buffer discussion - WCD led worksession – Frank, Aneka, Tristen
  - Large amounts of funding from the federal and state govts
  - Funding pathways:
    - i. CREP – 50’ requirement, pays rent
    - ii. NRCS/EQIP – new program, planning and maintenance
    - iii. Legislature – funding through the Conservation Commission – standards to be determined. Opportunity to help develop these standards.
  - Opportunity for voluntary progress but little progress will give strength to the mandatory buffer perspective.
  - Width of buffers remain a contentious issue, CREP plants 35’ with understanding it will grow out to 50”. That is the minimum. Farmers are much more comfortable with 15-20’.
  - Map of regulated streams classified as Green (50’+), Yellow (present but under 50’) and Red (no buffer) distributed. Tristen will calculate stream lengths in each category and we will track to use data to demonstrate our progress.
  - Map needs groundtruthing. And assigning areas into 2-4 tiers indicating the priority areas for improving habitat. Frank will draft a second map for the board’s consideration.
  - WID will use opportunity to advance buffers with landowners as a carrot in the water settlement negotiations.
  - Consider a few Field Days – March for landowners to demonstrate working buffers and June/July for Legislators.
  - Be sure we provide input to Conservation Commission when they develop standards for what constitutes fundable buffers.

#### **V. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – Anna noted the results have been good.
- b. DNA testing – no update
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred noted that Erika has moved up in the administration and will not be as available for the PIC program as in the past. Ingrid is replacing her. The WSDA Dairy inspection program has had several resignations resulting in decreasing inspections.

#### **VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.southlyndenwid.com](http://www.southlyndenwid.com)

#### **VII. Other Items from Commissioners**

- a. Henry called attention to staff changes at the Ag Water Board. Gavin will be coming onto the AWB staff and beginning to take over administration of the WIDs and AWB board. Henry will continue in the water supply area for awhile but moving towards retirement.

#### **VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Jeff adjourned the meeting at 4:31. Next meeting is February 14

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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