

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 9, 2021 Meeting, 3pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 893 3617 2935 Passcode: 959009

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

 t Henry Bierlink t Atul Deshmane t Fred Likkel
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

Landon called the meeting to order at 3:04.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of February 9 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
SL0321	Ag Water Board	March, April AWB	\$10,758.67
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$10,758.67

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate
 - Legislature – considering Gov’s request and a version of the budget proviso we helped to develop that doesn’t assume we are on a clear path to an adjudication.
 - County Executive proposal – not progressing until after the Legislative session as Tribes won’t commit to it unless an adjudication path is advancing.
 - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – engaged by County, hoping they can bring some sanity to whatever direction the Legislature provides.
- b. Watershed Management Board projects
 - Drainage Based Management – outline provided – a good start with good participation.
 - Regional Water Supply Plan – data collection and analysis phase completed. Evaluating management options.
- c. Discussion with Atul – The opportunity to better understand the PUD’s (and Atul’s) perspectives on water supply led to a discussion of potential supply tools, positions on adjudication, etc.
- d. PUD Pipeline
 - Irrigation engineer exploration – Ed is checking on the eastside. Henry asked Bill and other irrigation district representatives but hadn't heard of any leads.
 - PUD delivery system – Landon has been working with Steve to get a short tour of their delivery system.
- e. Conversation with Bellingham – Landon reported Bellingham wants to support ag but needed more understanding of how using their water right might work in the bigger picture. Bellingham has a study underway that will provide them more clarity. They expect that in the next few months after which we will continue the conversation.
- f. Lynden MAR project – study in progress
- g. Other WID projects with supply implications
 - Drayton – Deep Aquifer, Water Bank, augmentation

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Cougar Creek HPA use – Ed asked Henry to send a copy of the agreement we used in prior cases where we agreed to allow other entities to use our permit.

- b. Scott Ditch workplan – Joel seems amenable to spot cleaning this spring and a more complete cleaning this fall. Jeff moved to allow DID # to use our HPA for this action, Rod seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- c. Kamm Creek – waiting for some DID signatures
- d. Ditch cleaning – Fred was asked to arrange a discussion with County Road Dept. regarding what road ditches to clean this fall.
- e. Beaver trapping – the Sumas monitoring model was referred to.
- f. Flood Committee update – Fred noted the planning for future flood work is slowed as a result of the impasse over movement towards adjudication. The opportunity to reengage is likely in the context of the Drainage Based Management process.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – results are OK
- b. DNA project – Avian project – remains slowed although some analysis has occurred. Ryan has relocated to PA but is still working on this. Expected results within 3 months.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred reviewed the maps and data from Portage Bay. A clear decline in the numbers overall which may be attributed to taking samples at high runoff events. Further closures are possible. The likelihood of fall openings are increasingly unlikely.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Review of Website, project list to be updated – www.southlyndenwid.com
 - Reference to legal strategy
 - Communication through WFF newsletters
 - Beaver control
 - Water banks
 - DNA project
 - DBM
 - Contributions to salmon recovery

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Landon adjourned the meeting at 4:02. Next meeting is April 13.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____