

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – April 9, 2024

Attendees

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

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Landon Van Dyk Jeff DeJong Ed Blok Pablo Esquivel Rod VandeHoef	

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Elizabeth Hayes	Whatcom Conservation District
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Sarah Faubion (t)	AESI
David Haggith	N3 Consulting
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers
Frank Corey	Whatcom Conservation District

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Alan Chapman	Whatcom Conservation District

Proceedings

Landon called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. March 12 minutes were reviewed.
- c. Financial report and voucher in the amount of \$9,431.17 was reviewed.
- d. Jeff moved to approve the consent agenda. Rod seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Board members sign a reformatted version of the previously-approved Res. 2024-02.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an adjudication update. ECY estimates that 30,000 parcels will need service. Expect adjudication to be filed in mid-May, with service occurring later in the year.

4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided a FLIP update. Things seem to be improving over the past few weeks, including better timelines. Modeling is beginning to look at area downstream of Everson bridge.
 - i. Gavin and Fred also met with Nooksack tribal staff about potential projects in Reach 2. The meeting and proposed project ideas were generally positive.

- b. Frank provided a buffer program update. A new letter has been drafted, and CD staff is working on a brochure for the program. Plan is to send out in the next few weeks.
- c. Frank provided an update on brush removal on Elder Ditch and Scott Ditch.

5. Water Quality

- a. David provided a WQ update.
 - i. End of Scott Ditch has higher counts than upstream. May be carryover from earlier issues upstream. Board member noted there was significant snow geese presence in that area.
 - ii. Mormon Ditch had some high counts during ECY testing. N3 testing later had lower numbers.
 - iii. Some high counts on Timon Rd. Noted that those tests were taken immediately after an unusually high rainfall event. Board member noted more mallards this year than typical.
 - iv. Fred noted that precipitation forecasting has been increasingly difficult, which can impact when farmers choose to apply.

6. Education / Communications

- a. Fred provided an update on the water rights info evening. Nearly 400 people attended. Event presentations are now available on the Whatcom Family Farmers website.

7. Other

- a. Gavin provided OPMA training for the board members.

8. Next Meeting

- a. The next scheduled meetings are May 14 and June 11.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:48pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

