

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 12, 2021 Meeting, 3pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 830 0731 9011 Passcode: 356734

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

 x Henry Bierlink t Kasey Cykler x Fred Likkel
 Alan Chapman t Shelley Macy x Scott Korthuis
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

VP Ed opened the meeting in Landon’s initial absence at 3:02.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of December 8, 2020 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>
SL0121	N3	Dec monitoring	\$585.00
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$585.00

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

II. Administrative

- a. Oath of Office – Jeff and Ed were sworn in.
- b. Officer election – President and VP/Secretary – Ed moved to maintain the same officers as in 2020 – Landon as President, Ed as VP/Secretary – Jeff seconded, motion passed unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate – Henry and Fred reported that not much had developed over the past weeks. Media and Legislative work is continuing. Larry Stap had a column in Saturday’s Seattle Times.
 - Response to tribal meeting – we submitted a followup letter but have heard nothing back.
- b. County Executive proposal – Management Board discussed this but was not able to move forward yet due to need for Tribes to study it further.
 - Built on Lummi proposal (2015) and Drainage Based Management
- c. PUD partnering options – pipeline idea was discussed with following points:
 - Options for use – direct delivery or stream augmentation – Direct delivery is likely but if Ecology would allow augmentation near Strandell with withdrawal at current withdrawal sites that would be preferred.
 - City of Lynden discussion – need about 1,000 acre feet annually
 - Operation and Maintenance options
 - Amount of water anticipated – SLWID has 13,000 acres. Estimates are we may be able to make use of 5,000 acre feet annually as a beginning point.
 - Key concern is if we could keep the cost of water in an acceptable range for farmers. First issue is to know the cost of wholesale water purchase from the PUD. We will ask Steve to provide us a figure before we spend more resources on engineering.
 - Landon estimates the cost of installing 18” pipe through farmland would be in the \$40-50/foot range. We’d have to cross the river and about 5 roads over the 10 miles. Pump stations may drive up that cost.
- d. City of Lynden – Scott noted their priority is the Managed Aquifer Recharge project in the upper South Fork. If successful he sees plenty opportunity to expand these projects for ag water as well. The City expects to complete the “cow water” project in 2021.

- e. Bellingham water – the Bellingham right on the Middle Fork is another opportunity for transferring water downstream. This has been explored a few times in the past but there are issues that have prevented it. Kasey reminded the Board that the Mayor had committed the City to be part of a regional solution so it may be time to ask again. Contacting the City for a new discussion was agreed upon.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. DID #5 - Cougar Creek permit has been approved for the DID. Ed is working with their board to ensure they work within our permit conditions and avoid violations in the future.
- b. Ditch maintenance – A few areas were discussed for 2021 work:
 - Scott Ditch – main area needing attention is Bylsma Road downstream to the Blok bridge. Ed has been taking to Dale Blok of the DID and Joel at WDFW. We will plan to have both in the February meeting to determine the plan. Landon noted that a look upstream in Scott for some spot cleaning should be included.
 - Kamm – Rod was approached by a landowner about the need for spot cleaning in areas north of the River. Also to be discussed with Joel and that Drainage district.
- c. Flood Committee update – no new news

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David sent recent results which indicated low counts in nearly all areas. Kamm at Northwood was the only outlier.
- b. Kamm Creek concern – Ed has maintained ongoing discussions with Gerrit and is optimistic they are taking the concerns seriously. Planting grass rather than corn near the creek and applying during the summer is planned.
- c. DNA project – Avian project initiated. Kent expects a report within the next months.
- d. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – The need for new board members was noted. Fred reported that both he and Al De Boer were nominated but more seats are open.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.southlyndenwid.com
- b. Ag representation – the need for farmers to fill vacancies on numerous county advisory boards and commissions was discussed. Ag Advisory, Conservation District, etc.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Landon adjourned the meeting at 5:02 Next meetings are:
February 9 March 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____