

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – January 9, 2024

## Attendees

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

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Landon VanDyk ( <i>chair</i> ) Rod VandeHoef Pablo Esquivel Ed Blok	Jeff DeJong

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

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Jake DeHoog	CDID #21

## Proceedings

Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm.

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. November 14 minutes were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports were reviewed.
- d. Rod moved to approve the consent agenda. Pablo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Administration

- a. Ed signed the oath of office and per diem waiver.
- b. Rod moved to approve Resolution 2024-01 – Auditing Officer Designation. Pablo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an update on ECY’s draft filing form and instructions. Staff are currently reviewing the forms to see if they comply with the RCWs. There are concerns about the simplified filing form for permit exempt wells for domestic use allowing significant irrigation without requiring evidence of use. ECY also underestimates dairy use in the instructions, and narrowly defines “stockwater”.
- b. Gavin provided an update on the proposed joint application to ECY’s 2024 Streamflow Restoration Grant. At the recent WMB meeting, Nooksack staff read a letter from council

indicating that the tribe would not participate in anything related to water rights until the adjudication is filed. As a result, the joint grant application is not proceeding.

#### 4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Frank provided an update on the SCC's proposed new riparian buffer program. Minimum width for incentive-based buffers is 50' (35' on intermittent streams). Noted that buffers of any size can be installed and maintained with program funds, but landowners will not receive rental payments for smaller buffers.
  - i. Discussion about boundary between buffer and field and impacts on growing conditions. Frank noted a handful of ways to mitigate that.
  - ii. Potential concerns about certainty of continued funding after the contract is up, since buffers will be protected by CAO once they have been in place for long enough. It was noted that SCC's intent is to implement a program that includes purchase of permanent easements. However, creating and implementing a program like that will be difficult, because the appraisal process is narrow in scope and may not accurately reflect the real value of the land. The intent is that 10 or 15 year contracts through this initial program will give SCC time to design a new program with easement purchases.
- b. Gavin provided an update on beaver work on Nolte Rd. The beavers no longer appear to be active in the area; will continue to monitor.
- c. Jake DeHoog, representing CDID#21, requested to utilize the WID's programmatic permit to remove beaver dams on Elder Ditch.
  - i. Rod moved to allow that use of the permit. Landon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
  - ii. Frank will complete the NoA and send it to Gavin to be signed and submitted. Frank will coordinate the work with CDID#21

#### 5. Water Quality

- a. Anna and David both shared WQ data. Numbers have been great since late December.
- b. Fred shared an update on shellfish beds. Numbers have looked good; discussions are happening around opening more beds for harvest.

#### 6. Education / Communications

- a. Anna noted that manure nutrient management training is Jan 18 at the Mt Baker Rotary Building. Registration link is available on the WCD website.
- b. Match 27<sup>th</sup> will be the next WFF water rights education event. Will be an evening event at the Farm Pavilion at NWWF.

#### 7. Other Items

- a. None.

#### 8. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

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

