

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 9, 2021 Meeting, 3pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 860 4133 1958 Passcode: 695960

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

Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 David Haggith Dan Noteboom Jake De Hoog
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

Landon opened the meeting at 3:01.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 12, 2021 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>
SL0221	Ag Water Board	January, February 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
 - Legislative education is continuing – a budget proviso that would approve funding for both pre-adjudication work and the County collaborative process is developing. It currently prohibits Ecology from filing for adjudication until 2023.
 - Response to tribal meeting – A general feeling of progress in the December meeting with tribes but no response as of yet to our followup letter.
- b. County Executive proposal
 - Built on Lummi proposal (2015) and Drainage Based Management
 - Watershed Management Board discussing approval of the workplan Feb. 18th
 - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – engaged by County to guide this
- c. PUD partnering options – pipeline
 - PUD wholesale cost of water request was researched by Landon. There are a lot of intangibles in consideration of a price but it appeared to be lower than feared and it was generally felt that the number should not keep us from pursuing the project.
 - A review of the numbers and honing in on the costs seemed to be the next logical step. A contract with Reichhardt and Ebe is one option (Dale estimated a \$5k budget) but before we pursue that the board chose to look at other potential irrigation engineers including those on the eastside who specialize in this work. **The board will explore their connections to generate some potentials** and Henry will check with Bill and the Irrigation Association as well.
 - Landon asked for a list of potential grant opportunities that could fund the planning, engineering, and construction of this type of project. Since the purpose is to both enhance flows and provide ag irrigation there should be a sizable list. Henry will check with several parties and compile a list soon.
 - **Landon will contact the PUD and request a board tour of their pumping facilities at Trigg Road. The purpose is to have our board better understand the delivery system and to further explore the costs of wholesale water delivery.**
- d. City of Bellingham meeting – March 1st – Landon, Jeff, Greg Ebe, and Henry are planning on attending what is presumed to be a Zoom meeting. Priority issue is to re-explore the

concept of allowing some of Bellingham's Middle Fork rights to be placed in a water bank that farmers could draw from downstream.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. DID #5 - Cougar Creek – expect they will be planning to use of our HPA permit this fall to complete ditch maintenance. We need to be assured they are agreeable to following the conditions in this permit. Part of this is having a project description submitted to WDFW well prior to the time of work.
- b. Ditch maintenance
 - Scott Ditch – Jake and Ed agreed that the system needed some spot cleaning this spring and full maintenance on the Hannegan to Bylsma section this fall. Jake noted there was \$40-50k in the DID #21 budget that could be at least partially applied to this work. A project description needs to be submitted to WDFW well prior to the time of work.
 - Kamm Creek – Rod is checking with DID #20 about project plans.
- c. Beaver trapping – Sumas WID efforts were discussed which is a more proactive approach to tracking beaver damage and trapping.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – no high counts indicated in recent months.
- b. DNA project – Avian project initiated and progressing. Exact has been challenged to get all the needed supplies for the project due to COVID.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – the numbers have not been encouraging in large part to the timing of the tests (immediately after large rain events). There may be an additional month of fall closure.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.southlyndenwid.com

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Landon adjourned the meeting at 4:22. Next meeting is March 9.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____