

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: November 8, 2022 Meeting, 3pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85449447489?pwd=NXVEeWYxcVRha01pTkYvYWII VXJmUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 4944 7489 Passcode: 901787

Ed Blok Jeff De Jong Landon Van Dyk
 Rod Vande Hoef “Pablo” Esquivel

Henry Bierlink Shelley Macy Fred Likkel
 Alan Chapman Brandy Reed Jay Chennault
 David Haggith Bill Clarke _____ Jake De Hoog
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

Landon called the meeting to order at 3:07.

Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Jeff moved to open the Board of Equalization, Pablo seconded, motion carried unanimously. With no one present to contest the assessments Jeff moved to close the Board of Equalization, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of October 11 2022 minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
SL1122	AWB	Oct - Dec AWB	\$14,421.60
		TOTAL VOUCHER	\$14,421.60

Rod moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Pablo seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Rod and Landon re-elected to 3 year terms. Congratulations and Thanks!

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
 - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement – we continue to build support for this type of an approach as the major focus area with the state adjudication either replaced or incorporated in the settlement as only an element of the larger picture.
 - Ecology floating “Solutions Showcase” – learning from the [Yakima example](#) - the late October presentation to the Watershed Management Board was a ringing endorsement for our approach to resolving issues and a challenge to the adjudication first perspective.
 - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – forming an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted.
 - Ecology adjudication budget request and AWB response – we are preparing a letter to the Legislature that will be sent before Thanksgiving that challenges Ecology’s major focus on adjudication funding and instead directs investment to broader management of issues including habitat, flooding, and water supply.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
 - AWB establishing – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – Bill is setting up a meeting with Ecology to advance this.

- Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – will occur once the details of the Exchange are developed. Hopefully by early spring.
- Follow-up with key acquisition candidates as identified by the WID in earlier reviews of the water right database.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- Flood update – Fred reported some small actions have been implemented and the FLIP process has been moving in a positive direction. A discussion of the recent flood and the work being envisioned by the Sumas WID emphasized the need to consider all the consequences of flood management actions downstream.
- Ditch maintenance
 - Hannegan ditch – was finished by County
 - Renew HPA - stay connected to Frank to get this done.
 - Morman ditch – Joel had sent a note indicating some unpermitted actions on Morman ditch near Northwood Road. The WID had no knowledge of who did this and directed Henry to communicate that to Joel. It was not done under our HPA permit.
- Buffer requirements – Fred noted a more realistic attitude among fisheries advocates about the size of buffers. Nevertheless, there remain political pressures to mandate 200’ buffers on all streams.

V. Water Quality

- Monitoring Results – David reported the numbers were very good despite the challenge of the first fall flush.
- WCD update – Anna introduced herself as a new farm planner at the WCD. She is one of two new hires for this area. She will be assigned to participate in future Sumas and S Lynden WID meetings. She remind the board that Disaster assistance funding is still available for flood damage costs and she expects this may be an ongoing opportunity for future disaster relief for farmers. Brandy also noted that the WCD request for a parcel assessment to provide a financial base for their programs passed County Council. This will be \$5/parcel on all ag parcels. Cities will also be assessed. Brandy invited the WID to be part of the CD’s Strategic Planning process. This seeks to address all aspects of natural resource management.

VI. Education/Communications

- Website – www.southlyndenwid.com
- Fish, Farms, and Forestry presentation – with some extra time in the meeting the board welcomed Shelley to present a presentation she had developed for the Grange. The presentation revealed the dynamic natural cycle of fish, farms, and forests and how they all contribute to environmental health.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Landon adjourned the meeting at 4:54. The next meetings are December 13, January 10.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____