

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 9, 2020 Meeting, 3 pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 845 0494 6763 Password: 616321

<u>  x  </u> Ed Blok	<u>  x  </u> Jeff De Jong	<u>  x  </u> Landon Van Dyk
<u>  x  </u> Rod Vande Hoef	<u>  t  </u> Rolf Haugen	
<u>  x  </u> Henry Bierlink	_____ Dale Buys	<u>  t  </u> Fred Likkel
<u>  t  </u> Alan Chapman	_____ Steve Jilk	_____ Scott Bedlington
<u>  t  </u> David Haggith	<u>  t  </u> Frank Corey	_____ Jake De Hoog
<u>  t  </u> Corrina Cheever	<u>  t  </u> Shelley Macy	_____ Sherm Polinder

*x = present                      o = absent with notice                      t = teleconference*

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Ag Water Board	May - August AWB	<b>\$16,758.32</b>
N3 Consulting	wq monitoring - Feb	<b>\$747.50</b>
	TOTAL - Month	<b>\$17,505.82</b>

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

### II. Administrative

- a. Adopt Purchasing Policy – Henry explained that the Bertrand WID was coordinating the payment of invoices for the Duffner tidegate project which had several funding partners including state grant funding. A clear purchasing policy for the WID is needed to make this work properly and stay in line with state purchasing requirements. Each WID is presented with the opportunity to adopt a similar policy so it can be ready to take on similar projects. Jeff moved approval of the SLWID Purchasing Policy, Ed seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Appoint Auditing officer – A requirement of the Purchasing Policy is the appointment of a designated Auditing Officer for the WID. The Auditing Officer needs to have a \$50k bond. Ed moved appointment of Henry Bierlink as the SLWID Auditing Officer, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate – Henry reported:
  - AWB position shared by Bellingham, PUD, private wells.
  - The County is currently choosing to remain neutral in the debate hoping to be in the position to facilitate future negotiations either under an adjudication or remaining in negotiations under the Water Management Board. AWB is pressing the County and the Planning Unit to take a position in opposition to adjudication.
  - Adjudication supported only by Tribes and environmental caucus of the Planning Unit.
  - Ecology position likely by July. Report to the Legislature is due in September.
  - COVID impacts on the State budget make funding for a new adjudication in 2021 very unlikely. However, Ecology could file the legal work for an adjudication on its own. Legislative approval is only for funding. We do not want the Nooksack to be recommended.
  - Fred reported that Family Farmers is conducting a campaign to call attention to the negative effects of an adjudication.
- b. Regional Water Supply task force selected Aspect Consulting as contractor. This is the beginning of the Drainage Based Management negotiations that we are advancing instead

of an adjudication. The consultant team selected to guide this process is new to AWB but has worked for both Tribes in the past.

#### **IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. Badger Road bridge over Kamm – Frank reported on WSDOT’s project which would impact Fred Polinder’s field. Fred seems open to a stream relocation project that would work well with the WSDOT project. Frank requested permission to use the WID’s permit and asked if there would be financial support for a project he estimated at \$3,000. Jeff moved approval of the use of our permit and for up to \$3000 in support for the Fred Polinder project on Kamm provided the landowner wants this to happen, Rod seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- b. Fish screens – list of surface diversions – Corina called attention to the series of mapped surface water diversions in the SLWID. This was built on the surface water rights in Ecology’s database. The CD has funding for 2 fish screens and would like to develop a list of irrigators who may be interested. Rod indicated interest and the board will work towards having a list of 10 potential projects by September.
- c. Ditch maintenance
  - Northwood ditch near Oostemas – Fred recalled some earlier requests for ditch cleaning in this area. The potential of lumping this project with the Kamm project on Polinders was discussed. Fred will check with the Van Berkums who are farming this parcel if this is needed.
- d. Flood Committee update – Fred noted the board has been focused on the Duffner tidegate project and is expecting to add another tidegate project on Cougar Creek in 2021.

#### **V. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – limited monitoring has been occurring. WQ website has not been updated. Fred reported that dairy inspections were resuming.
- b. DNA project – Avian project initiated – all WIDs contributed to make the \$20k available. Fred expects Kent to have something to report this fall. Fred noted that Karen Steensma was part of a grant project studying bird behavior that may be able to augment this DNA project with some help and funding.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – shellfish harvesting is open with the exception of October – November.

#### **VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.southlyndenwid.com](http://www.southlyndenwid.com)
- b. Ag Engineer support position – no action on pursuing this as it is unclear if the WCD is still attempting to advance the assessment idea. Chris Clark is still helping with the existing EQIP contracts. Unsure if he will be available to help with future ones.
- c. COVID-19 concerns – a brief discussion of how the various sectors of agriculture were addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 virus.

#### **VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

September 8

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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