

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 11, 2019 Meeting, 3 pm – 5 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

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

Henry Bierlink _____ Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 Alan Chapman Steve Jilk Shelley Macy
 David Haggith _____ Dan Noteboom _____ Jake De Hoog
_____ Aneka Sweeney _____ Heather McKay Sherm Polinder
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 9 Minutes
- b. Financial Report – *see financial report in board packet*
- c. The following vouchers are approved for payment:

Ag Water Board	May, June AWB	\$8,824.84
N3	wq monitoring	
	TOTAL - Month	\$8,824.84

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply – Henry reported:

- a. Drainage Based Management – will be initiated as a subset of the Water Supply Plan facilitated by the PUD – Drayton and Bertrand are primed to begin as there is funding from grants managed by the PUD and Birch Bay Water and Sewer.
- b. Streamflow Restoration Grant application – waiting for contracts for higher rated projects to be completed in July, expecting some funding for fall.
- c. Ecology Rule Making – amending the Nooksack Rule – several conference calls with Bill and Ecology – see comments on the proposed rule @

<http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/comment/extra?start=301&id=GFRjc>

It was noted that the tribal comments were generally favorable toward our projects with some concerns expressed. The comments from ReSources were opposed to using our projects as offsets for rural wells. A discussion with ReSources is being arranged.

- d. Nooksack Tribe water right adjudication request – may create more pressure for Ecology although there are numerous other adjudication requests pending as well.
- e. Drought declaration – grant opportunity that may help us with some seasonal transfers <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Drought-emergency-grants-2019>. Steve noted there would be a June 24th training session on this grant opportunity.
- f. Skookumchuck Water Association – the need for additional rights for Skookumchuck prompted a wide ranging discussion of options for wheeling water between the PUD, Bellingham, and the SLWID. Steve noted that the opportunity to apply for Streamflow Restoration grant funds will be open this fall. A well designed project that would help in transferring existing rights to the SLWID may be worth considering.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Drainage projects – County and WDFW met with all WIDs about projects – finishing the Noon Road project was discussed, the County didn't see issues with the Hannegan Road ditch, and the ditch along Northwood Road may be considered for cleaning next year. This would require mitigation which has not yet been identified.
- b. Update on Floodplains by Design discussions and potential projects – Fred outlined the status of the proposed flood mgt project on ag lands. It is funded for \$500k and we proposed several areas on the River to consider. However, we have also made it clear that

farmer participation is on a two-way street. We will give but we also need to have our needs addressed. These are primarily in sediment management and water rights.

- a. Sediment management looked to be advancing with a bill reaching the governor that would foster a discussion over sediment management. But this was line item vetoed.
- b. Water rights discussions have been in neutral for months even though the drainage based management task in the Water Management's 5-year workplan had this process planned to be underway last fall.

Fred canceled a planned tour of projects set for May 31st because of these setbacks. That led to a meeting with Paula and the Nooksacks which began to renew our partnership with them on these matters.

- c. Ditch mowing partnership with County Road Dept. – We had some initial response to the request for discussion with the County but nothing lately. Henry and Keith will reconnect with them about the potential partnership.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David reported that samples in the past months were good. Since summer testing rarely reveals much information David is inclined to suspend sampling at many of the sites over the summer. The board agreed with this approach.
- b. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – Fred noted this work was gaining some traction in BC.
- c. Landowner letter – Fred anticipates sending another “be alert” letter to landowners prior to fall manure applications. He also reported that compliance with the CAFO permit's ban of any manure applications in October was leading farmers to engage in riskier practices. A change in this permit would benefit water quality.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.southlyndenwid.com
- b. Newsletter – out in June

VI. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Rolf responded to the request for additional items to consider with two items he would like to better understand:
 - How much water does native vegetation and trees planted for buffer areas require and how does this compare to our crop irrigation requirements?
 - What are the current and historic fish counts? What is our goal? Are we shooting at a moving target? Alan responded with numbers Lummi has advanced for the Nooksack River based on early 1980's fish numbers. The numbers have dropped dramatically since that time. The cause of the drop is multiple factors. Our challenge is to understand if habitat loss and/or lack of adequate in-stream flows is among the factors and if so, to what degree?

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Sept 10

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____