

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – October 10, 2023, 3 PM

*Board Attending:*

- Landon VanDyk                       Jeff DeJong                       Pablo Esquivel
- Rod VandeHoef                       Ed Blok

*Others Attending:*

- Gavin Willis                       Henry Bierlink                       Fred Likkel
  - Anna Beebe                       Shelley Macy                       Frank Corey
  - Alan Chapman                       Bill Clarke                       David Haggith
  - Jay Chennault                       John Courtney                       Sarah Faubion
- x – present      o – absent with notice      t – teleconference      p – proxy*

Landon called the meeting to order at 3:04.

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. September 12 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Jeff moved to approve the consent agenda. Ed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Administration**

- a. Terms of office are expiring for Ed and Jeff.
  - i. Rod moved to renominate Ed and Jeff. Jeff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Discussion of the budget, including AWB budget request. Suggested to add \$10,000 for beaver management to the budget worksheet presented in the meeting.
  - i. Jeff moved to approve the AWB budget request and set additional budget of \$4600 for operation expenses and \$20,000 for projects. Ed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Resolution 2023-01 – Setting the 2024 Assessment Rate
  - i. Rod moved to approve Resolution 2023-01 setting the assessment rate at \$8.00 per acre. Jeff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Resolution 2023-02 – Establishing the 2024 Assessment Roll
  - i. Assessment Roll was reviewed.
  - ii. Rod moved to approve Resolution 2023-02 and establish the assessment roll for 2024. Jeff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply**

- a. ECY Streamflow Restoration Grant guideline document will be released on Oct. 11. AWB is considering applying for grant funding to complete and monitor surface-to-groundwater conversions. If ECY have made significant changes to the

guidelines the project may not be a good fit, but if it remains the same the project would be in a good position to get funded.

- i. There is potential to coordinate the application with other interests on the WMB as part of a package application. This could improve the odds of the application being selected for funding, and also reduce administrative load for AWB staff for grant management.

#### **4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood**

- a. Gavin and Fred met with county staff and consultants to talk about flood impacts to farmland.
  - i. Question from board member on how impacts have changed from the old Everson Bridge to the current one, in light of potential future changes to the bridge span.
- b. Fred provided an update on the CREP program.
  - i. Over 800 acres in Whatcom County have been disenrolled from CREP.
  - ii. 2-year funding intervals for state funding make recurring lease payments difficult to set up. Conservation easements that the WID co-holds may be a potential solution.
- c. Nolte Rd beaver management.
  - i. Beaver dam was removed using the WID permit. Landon will try and get Critter Control to trap beaver in the area to prevent them from rebuilding.

#### **5. Water Quality**

- a. Anna provided an update on water quality data. Potential high numbers on Thiel Rd – will want to track that as we the the first flush with incoming rain.
  - i. Question from board member on data collection – how can you have a high count at one location, and then no test due to stagnant conditions downstream of that point?
- b. Anna noted that regional manure nutrient management training will be Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm at the Mt Baker Rotary Building at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds. Registration and details available at [whatcomcd.org](http://whatcomcd.org)

#### **6. Education / Communications**

- a. Website – [southlyndenwid.com](http://southlyndenwid.com)
  - i. Possible website update to simplify AWB staff workflow and ensure compliance with state requirements. Gavin will bring more info to the next meeting.
- b. Whatcom Family Farmers is hosting their annual Farm Rally on Nov 8 at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden. They will be hosting an educational event for farmers about the adjudication from 2-4 pm prior to the rally, with presentations from a number of water rights lawyers and experts.

#### **7. Other Items from Commissioners**

- a. None.

#### **8. Next Meetings**

- a. The next meeting is November 14<sup>th</sup>
- b. The November meeting will also serve as the board of equalization.

Landon adjourned the meeting at 5:01 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

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