

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 11, 2020 Meeting, 3 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

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

 x Henry Bierlink x George Boggs x Sherm Polinder

 x Alan Chapman x David Haggith x Shelly Macy

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 12 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*
 - Ag Water Board *January, February AWB* **\$8,453.14**
 - Rod moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- a. Officer election – need a President and VP/Secretary - Jeff moved to elect Landon as President and Ed as VP/Sect., Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Oath of office – Landon and Rod took the Oath at the start of a new 3-year term.
- c. Public Records designee – required by RCW 42.56 - Rod moved to appoint Henry Bierlink as the Public Records designee, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management pilot – Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton
 - First mtg 12/16 – data gathering, next steps are to develop a database of current data for each pilot, send an RFP to candidates to summarize that data for each pilot and suggest management solutions for the group to consider. The focus will be on water supply but there will be room for habitat and water quality discussions.
 - Linking this process to the Flood Management work under the FLIP process is a goal advanced by the AWB.
- b. AWB Grant from Ecology - \$150k for 2 years
 - Develop Project Lists – surface to ground and augmentation potential sites
 - Implement 2 conversions, 1 augmentation project
 - Project meeting with Reichhardt and Ebe and AESI - 13th
- c. South Fork representation – a group of WID board members met with the South Fork farmers. They preferred a contractual agreement with the AWB or Family Farmers over forming their own WID or being annexed by another one. Bill found such an agreement with the AWB legally problematic. Fred will be working with them about how this could be accomplished through Family Farmers. The long term goal remains getting most ag parcels in the South Fork into an existing or new WID.
- d. Lynden storage project presentation – March 10th mtg – Lynden asked for an opportunity to present the “Managed Aquifer Recharge” project they are developing to the AWB in March. Henry suggested they present to the SLWID instead as this board has the most River experience. Their goal would be to get support for their grant application from the SLWID and have the SLWID recommend similar support from the AWB. The board agreed to put it on their March agenda but had questions and concerns about how the project related to the storage study the PUD did with several SLWID sites a few years ago.
- e. Adjudication meeting – Lummi joined Nooksack in sending a letter of request for a basin-wide general stream adjudication. This makes what we earlier sensed was a low likelihood more likely. Ecology’s point person to explore potential adjudication locations throughout the state will meet with the AWB February 12th. We determined to invite all WID Board members to listen into this discussion.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. FLIP project tour – opportunities for funding were advanced in this tour.
- b. Culvert replacement – the Board reviewed the online WDFW culvert map located at <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/fishpassage/index.html>
Board members were asked to Click on the yellow (partial barrier) or red (full barrier) triangles and a site specific report will pop up. Generating ideas for WID specific projects would be helpful as we prepare our 2020 Project budgets.
- c. Meeting with Cramer Scientific re: fish habitat needs was noted as informational.
- d. Ditch maintenance – mowing and cleanout equipment discussion – Board was not clear about where or how to advance this idea. It would seem the Diking and Drainage Districts are better positioned to conduct such a program. The WID would be supportive in any way we could. Collecting some bids on the cost of the work would advance the discussion.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David noted that nearly all scheduled monitoring events over the past months happened to coincide with flood events. Unfortunately, “dilution as the solution to pollution” did not prove true. Better news was that the east end of Scott appeared to finally be clean.
- b. DNA project – a discussion with Kent at Exact Scientific led the Drayton WID to approve a budget for N3 to submit some samples for DNA analysis when the conditions are judged to be of interest. Jeff moved to approve \$1000 of project funds for N3 to use in a similar manner in the SLWID, Rolf seconded, motion carried unanimously. This will help Exact build their database and a case for applying for grants to further develop their technology.
- c. Report on landowner contacts – David is in contact with one farm experiencing water quality challenges.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.southlyndenwid.com
- b. Whatcom Conservation District workplan
George Boggs presented for the Whatcom Conservation District. Their Board is in the middle of a 5-year workplan (2017-2022) but desired a community discussion to “proof up” their assumptions and make needed adjustments to the Plan. The WCD is preparing a survey of its constituents and asked if the WID would help gather responses. We will distribute and also discuss our priorities at our next Board meeting. George altered the Board to the WCD’s desire to establish a base of funding so they would not be as reliant on grant funding. The proposal of \$5/parcel countywide would generate nearly \$500k annually to be used to firm up priority programs that don’t get grant funding and provide matching funds for grant funded programs. This funding plan would generate \$18k from land in the WIDs, \$30k from non-WID parcels in the ag area, and approximately \$450k from urban and rural residential areas. Plans are to present this idea to stakeholders, hold a Public Hearing before the WCD Board in June, and present this request to the County Council in July.
- c. Special Purpose District proposed legislation – abuse of tax payer funds in a King County Drainage District has caused proposed legislation that would drastically change the structure of special purpose districts like the WIDs. Bill is monitoring and reports the changes are likely dead for this year.

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Shelly distributed an invitation from the Pomona Grange for a Potluck supper and Baking Contest to be held February 18th.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

March 10

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____