

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – November 14, 2023, 3 PM

*Board Attending:*

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landon VanDyk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff DeJong | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pablo Esquivel |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod VandeHoef | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Blok     |  |

*Others Attending:*

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anna Beebe              | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelley Macy              | <input type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman            | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke               | <input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Courtney  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Faubion          |
- x – present      o – absent with notice      t – teleconference      p – proxy*

Landon called the meeting to order at 3:04.

**1. Board of Equalization**

- a. Jeff moved to open the board of equalization. Ed seconded. Board of equalization was open.
- b. No one present contested their assessments.
- c. Jeff moved to close the board of equalization. Ed seconded. Board of equalization was closed.

**2. Consent Agenda**

- a. October 10 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Rod moved to approve the consent agenda. Pablo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Administration**

- a. No other candidates for election were nominated, so Ed and Jeff are elected.

**4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply**

- a. Land use planning update from Henry. Goal to ensure that land zoned for agriculture has access to water. Pilot study area in west Ferndale, where some farms had to truck in water during summer 2023.
- b. Streamflow Restoration Grant update from Henry. Looking at having the county apply for a combined grant that would include surface-to-groundwater conversions in the lower Nooksack (sponsored by AWB) and wetland restoration in the South Fork (sponsored by the tribes). Grant would be managed by the county.
- c. Discussion about potential water rights office hours for WID members. Would happen in 2024, WID members would have the opportunity to sign up for 30-minute sessions with AESI staff as part of their contract with AWB to go over

their water rights situations. Any work beyond that would be on the landowners to pay for themselves.

## **5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood**

- a. FLIP update – county is being pressured to take action on some projects in the overflow zone, especially given that the modeling shows that some of those actions have minimal side effects.
- b. Fred provided an update on the CREP program. Of about 4000 acres of CREP in the county, 1000 have been disenrolled. Some of those buffers have been removed already. State is looking at potential options to help out the remainder.
- c. Nolte Rd beaver management.
  - i. Have a new beaver trapper lined up – Jesse Clawson. Working on getting him out there to start trapping.

## **6. Water Quality**

- a. Anna provided an update on water quality data. 2 sampling runs since the last WID meeting.
  - i. One high count at S3 site on 10/31. Follow up testing on 11/8 didn't show any high counts in the area.
  - ii. Testing from David on 10/31 didn't see high numbers on the S3 site. Fred will follow up with David on that.
- b. Anna noted that Sustainable Farms & Fields funding might be released in January 2024 for carbon smart practices.
  - i. Examples of eligible projects are cover crops, nutrient management improvements, energy efficiency improvements, and demonstrations of practices not currently listed that may provide climate benefits.
  - ii. Payment is 75% of cost of implementing the practice, up to \$100,000 per landowner. (Research/demonstration projects can be up to 100% cost share)
- c. Also a reminder of the Manure Nutrient Management training on January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Baker Rotary building.

## **7. Education / Communications**

- a. Website – [southlyndenwid.com](http://southlyndenwid.com)
  - i. Website update is tabled until next year – WID is exempt from OPMA requirements for website posting of meeting notice due to size. Do need to do OPMA training for board members though – Gavin will coordinate in either January or February board meeting.
- b. Request from the board to send presentation slides from November adjudication event to WID members

## **8. Other Items from Commissioners**

- a. None.

## **9. Next Meetings**

- a. The next meeting is January 9

Landon adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

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