

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 8, 2021 Meeting, 3 pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 860 4934 2988 Passcode: 684587

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

Henry Bierlink                       Atul Deshmane                       Fred Likkel  
*x = present                      o = absent with notice                      t = teleconference*

Landon opened the meeting at 3:05.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 13 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
SL0621	Ag Water Board	May, June AWB	\$10,758.67
SL0621	Ag Water Board	July, August AWB	\$10,758.67
SL0621	N3	water monitoring	632.50
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$22,149.84</b>

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. PUD Pipeline
  - Irrigation engineer exploration – the likelihood of finding an Engineer to do the limited initial work for this concept other than a local firm like Reichhardt and Ebe was discussed. Jeff moved to approved up to \$5k for a Phase 1 review of the potential of moving PUD water east to farms, Rod seconded, motion passed unanimously. Landon will contact Dale. We'd like to see a draft route, pipeline sizing with a determined delivery amounts at the Guide, Pole and Noon Roads, and approximate costs. The hope would be for a report at the September meeting with the potential of more funds for Phase 2 exploration if merited.
  - Potential of an [Educational grant](#) of \$10k was reviewed. Henry was not optimistic as our project was not a clear "fit" for this Outreach grant. We should know in a few weeks. If granted it would expand the initial study to include the Bellingham source option.
- b. Conversations with Bellingham – they indicated interest in helping but need a more specific proposal to evaluate. And an understanding of the potential of their water to solve more than just isolated issues in the entire watershed.
- c. County led Collaboration
  - Legislature provided 2 years funding @ \$125k/yr
  - County Executive meeting with AWB Water Supply Committee – June 8<sup>th</sup> - was summarized. Satpal understands the concerns with an adjudication and shares our goal of illustrating a better path to a solution by the time the 2023 Legislature considers the filing and funding of an adjudication. Tribes remain non-committal to an alternative path. A Tribal meeting with Ecology this month may help them determine their approach to County led collaboration.
  - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report due in July. Will likely be retained as a neutral party able to provide back channel communications with Tribes and Ecology.
  - Conflicting letters from [ReSources](#) and [Family Farmers](#)

- [Executive's response](#) – challenged ReSources desire to abandon collaboration and focus only on data collection.
- d. Watershed Management Board projects
  - Drainage Based Management - [outline](#)
    - Seeking expansion of [outline](#) AND key initial projects from each pilot
  - Regional Water Supply Plan – [data collection](#)
- e. Legal Preparation – AWB Legal committee and Bill Clarke are recommending some steps to prepare for an adjudication, should one actually be filed. We will set aside time at future AWB Board meetings for Executive Sessions as we prepare for litigation. We are planning to rotate Executive Sessions among future WID meetings as well to keep WID boards fully informed as well. Bill is suggesting that all WIDs look at obtaining a water right in the next 18 months. This would help ensure the WIDs have the standing they will need to be part of an adjudication and potential solutions arising in an adjudication or alternative agreement. Henry asked the board members to be alert to any land conversions where a water right might be purchased.

### III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Cougar Creek HPA use – Ed is working with DD #5.
- b. Scott Ditch workplan – reports are that the spot cleaning this spring was ineffective. Focus is on a more complete project this fall.
- c. Road ditch cleaning – Fred reported the County has agreed to clean the East ditch along Hannegan Road from Scott Ditch to Polinder Rd. Fred will recheck the East ditch along Lankhaar Rd. and Bylsma Road ditches.

### IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Megan sent data on Scott Ditch. There were few numbers causing significant alarm. There is a growing understanding that the background fecal on a ditch like Scott would always bump against state water quality standards. A question of how much impact this actually has on downstream shellfish beds should be consistently kept in perspective.
- b. DNA project – Avian project report has been received. It helps clarify some issues but more questions arise. There is some interest in pursuing more data to answer these questions. Fred expects to arrange a fall meeting where Exact can present the data to the sponsoring WIDs and discuss next steps.

### V. Education/Communications

- a. [www.southlyndenwid.com](http://www.southlyndenwid.com)
- b. Whatcom CD – Fred noted that Frank Corey has been appointed the Interim Executive Director upon George's retirement June 1<sup>st</sup>. There are interviews scheduled for a permanent position. A question about who was appointed to the open board position was unknown.

### VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Landon adjourned the meeting at 4:36. Next scheduled meetings are:  
 September 14  
 October 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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