

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: February 8, 2022 Meeting, 3pm

Videoconference – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85267933943?pwd=ZTU5c0pyTEkwWC9mN1lzK3BKaUJlUT09>

Meeting ID: 852 6793 3943 Passcode: 532790

<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Ed Blok	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Jeff De Jong	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Landon Van Dyk
<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Rod Vande Hoef	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> “Pablo” Esquivel	
<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Henry Bierlink	<u>  </u> Dale Buys	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Fred Likkel
<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Alan Chapman	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Katie Faber	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Jay Chennault
<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> David Haggith	<u>  </u> Bill Clarke	<u>  </u> Jake De Hoog
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Landon called the meeting to order at 3:07.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 11 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
SL0222	January, February AWB	water monitoring	\$9,614.40
SL0222	WA State Auditor	assessment audit	\$1,017.90
		<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>	<b>\$10,632.30</b>

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water Supply Team update
  - Legal – Water Supply Team advocating for contract with legal team
  - Would focus on building alternatives to adjudication – federal, settlement options
  - Funds would come from the AWB legal reserve fund but more may be needed from each WID to fund the 2022 contract. The budget for additional \$30k was reviewed with the SL WID contributing \$5,533 from its Project Fund. The board recognized this was a possibility at budgeting time and was Ok with making this transfer should the AWB make a formal request.
- b. Solutions Table
  - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating a March 2022 start
  - Linking with potential proviso supporting federal involvement in water mgt. (flood, supply, habitat)
  - Legislature seems amenable to expanding the scope of the Solutions Table and proving more funding.
- c. Project List
  - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted for \$8.5 million over 7 years. We expect it will be competitive and that we will hear by late summer.
- d. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - The final review of groundwater rights was conducted. Jay and Henry will prepare a list of water rights where we are uncertain if the rights will be adequately defended and suggest some options the WID board may consider for communicating with these parcel owners.
  - Next step will be to determine who and how to contact.
- e. Letters of Non-Compliance – it was noted that Ecology has been sending letters to farmers where the maps indicate no Place of Use coverage yet the field is being irrigated. It is unclear if this is a new policy where Ecology is surveying fields or if this is still complaint based as it has been in the past. Ecology is not fining (yet) but urging action to rectify this issue.

### **III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. Flood response
  - Support for a media story with flood images and stories – Bertrand & Drayton agreed to add \$5k to the \$10k approved by the Sumas WID. Fred has been working with the Small Cities who are highly motivated towards action. He is seeking good contacts in BC to expand the discussion.
- b. Ditch maintenance
  - FEMA flood assistance – a webinar discussion is occurring at several times this week that board members were suggested to participate in. We are exploring if FEMA funds can flow through the WID or Drainage Districts for post-flood ditch maintenance.
  - County road ditch cleaning update – Travis B has told the WID the Hampton/Northwood ditches would be cleaned.
  - The Sumas WID is inviting Joel to attend a future meeting to brainstorm how we can help each other to address the drainage concerns caused by the flood. It was suggested to invite Joel for the final 30 minutes of the Sumas March meeting and invite the S Lynden WID to come in 30 minutes early.
- c. Tidegate – Ed informed the Board he was beginning the process of determining if a tidegate in Scott Ditch would be helpful and fundable.

### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – David presented the recent sampling data which was very positive.
- b. DNA testing - David has obtained a good set of samples that may be able to isolate the avian contribution to fecal numbers.

### **V. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.southlyndenwid.com](http://www.southlyndenwid.com)
- b. AWB flyer and draft cover letter – 227 letters to be mailed. Final edits were made.
- c. Family Farmers Rally will be set in March or April once more clarity on the Water Supply Team legal contract is in place.

### **VI. Other Items from Commissioners**

- a. [Audit Report](#) – State conducted assessment audit – a clean report from the Auditor was reviewed.

### **VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Landon adjourned the meeting at 4:46. Next meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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