

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: May 9, 2016 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input type="checkbox"/> t	Leroy Plagerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Roger Blok	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Jon Maberry
<input type="checkbox"/> o	Rich Appel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Mike Boxx		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Fred Likkel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Hank Kastner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gary Stoyka	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Steve Hood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Jessica Kirkpatrick
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Andy Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Eric Sundstrom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Chris Leurkens
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Bob Seaman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Bob McWhoter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lee First

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of April 11 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1	\$0.00			\$0.00
Fund Balance @ 4/1/2016		\$10,063.96		
Prior Month Expenses		\$860.00		
Assessments Received		\$17,436.46		
Fund Balance @ 5/1/2016		\$26,640.42		
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$26,640.42
Outstanding bills:				\$2,665.00
Ag Water Board	<i>¼ April Admin and Quantity</i>		\$2,125.00	
N3	<i>April Water Quality testing</i>		\$540.00	
End of Month Balance				\$23,975.42

	<u>2016 Budget</u>	<u>Expended to Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	14,065	5,125.00	8,940.00
Projects	26,500	2,700.00	23,800.00
Adm/Insurance	9,276	920.00	8,356.00
	49,841	8,745.00	41,096.00

Roger moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

- A. Ag Water Board report
 - Legal
 - Lummi Settlement Update – negotiations still in progress
 - AWB Articles and Bylaws completed and filed
 - County Comprehensive Plan and Critical Area updates – comments on Comp Plan in cooperation with WFF and Farm Bureau, more comments coming on CAO – Fred updated the board on the discussions with several County Council members regarding the letter.

IV. New Business

- A. Ditch & Dike Maintenance
 - Ditch maintenance
 - List of Ag Priority Actions generated at mapping work session – continued discussion from last meeting -

<u>Action # on map</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	Development	Purchase development right in upper Silver Springs Creek.	
2	Development	There are lots of residential/development conflicts here.	
3	Drainage	Clean out Tenmile Creek channel west of Chasteen Rd for .5 miles downstream.	
4	Drainage	Potential sediment trap in Fourmile Creek.	
5	Drainage	Maintenance required on Fourmile Creek to keep channel flow.	
6	Drainage	Clean out Green Lake Slough to Hannegan needed to improve drainage of boggy area.	
7	Drainage	Bypass around lake needs to be cleaned.	
8	Drainage	Maintenance needed to clear willows out of waterway.	
9	Drainage	More ag land would be available if this area drained.	
10	Drainage	Beaver dam removal by bridge necessary.	
11	Drainage	Maintenance needed to clear willows that have fallen into water.	
12	Drainage	This area has poor drainage.	
13	Drainage	This area needs better drainage.	Top Priority – need to develop a plan to address this area just west of the Guide as it is not part of a DID.
14	Drainage	Problems with drainage and beaver management.	
15	Drainage	Wet field, would benefit from cleaning culvert	On Axton Road. Ditch needs cleaning too.
16	Drainage	Keeping this ditch clear is key to drainage to east. Creek runs slowly.	Landowner is willing to have work done.
17	Fisheries	Fish passage problem.	
18	Flooding	Beaver management needed to prevent flooding.	
19	Flooding	Potential good location for flood gate.	
20	Water Quantity	Groundwater quantity is limited here, not enough for cows, lots of iron.	

- meetings with landowners, NSEA, WCD will take place to develop these project ideas.

B. Habitat – *potential priority projects to serve as mitigation for drainage maintenance*

- Develop and maintain project list
- Match projects to funding sources

C. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results are generally good with the exception of one day which followed a weekend rainstorm. There was concern over the mismapped location of the T2 site. Andy will check on this.
- Ten Mile group report – Bob Seaman reported on the septic sniffing dog. It identified a few areas where septic are an issue. Lower Deer creek is one of them. Bob felt that people “just don’t know” and that more effort to get information out to landowner is needed. He noted the County Council had approved \$150k in educational support but no one has come up with a good way to get the information out to landowners.
- Ecology outreach proposal – Steve, Chris, and Jessica explained the Ecology plan for progress towards water quality improvements in the Laurel WID area. They

conducted a survey of non-dairy livestock operations this winter and are beginning a campaign to knock on doors where issues were observed. They have about a dozen sites in the WID and another dozen in the drainage but outside the WID in mind for visits. Efforts will be made to get problem areas into a planning process leading towards water quality protection improvements. Ecology desires WID help in prioritizing and conducting these contacts. The board is open to discussing strategies at the meetings.

- Report on landowner contacts – Mike noted that Rich had talked to two farmers in the Piper Road area.

D. Water Quantity – Henry distributed an overview of the membership and purpose of the WWSC.

- Whatcom Water Supply Coalition (WWSC)
 - Working on a clear plan with goals, objectives, and actions
- Bureau of Reclamation Grant Application
 - Review of Water Rights and Needs for each WID – beginning in the South Lynden WID
 - Water Bank – part of the BOR and the Birch Bay Water District grant
- Ag’s Role in the developing Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for WRIA #1 Water Planning – the proper place for agriculture representation is being debated.

E. Education

- Review of Mapping Project – final report from County team – Heather reviewed the results from the Ag Watershed Project which included a set of maps and tables for the Laurel WID. She will be sending a link to the final review draft by mid-May allowing the board members to review it by the end of the month. She emphasized how important baseline data is to measure the effects of projects. It is hard to achieve credit unless you can demonstrate the improvements.
- May 19th First Salmon Celebration – board members were encouraged to attend.
- Website www.laurelwid.com

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

June 13

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____