

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 9, 2015 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Leroy Plagerman Roger Blok Jon Maberry
 Rich Appel Mike Boxx

Henry Bierlink _____ Dale Buys _____ Chuck Lindsay
_____ Gary Stoyka _____ Steve Jilk Aneka Sweeny
_____ Mary Dumas _____ Joanne Greenberg Kasey Cykler
_____ Jim Bucknell _____ Chuck Antholt Karen Brown

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

I. Review and Approval of January 12 Minutes

Rich moved to accept the January 12th minutes as presented, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

- A. Open Meetings Act Training – required by Legislature, complete on-line training and bring copy of certificate for our files -

<http://agr.wa.gov/Portals/CommFair/OPMA.aspx>

Henry reminded the board that we need these on file. A future Audit will cite us for non-conformance.

- B. RFQ issued for: Administration, Engineering, Legal

- A RFQ posted in the Lynden Tribune will develop a list of potential contractors to meet admin, legal, and engineering needs. The Bertrand WID will maintain the list and the Laurel WID will be able to piggyback on that list as elaborated in the Interlocal Agreement that is being developed.
- Select admin from list at March meeting. Legal will likely be developed by the AG Water Board. Engineering help will be generated as they develop.

- C. Ag Water District development

- Interlocal Agreement draft 3, Suggest final edits by Feb. 25th.
- Discuss representatives to Ag Water Board (AWB)
 - Jon moved to have Mike serve as the representative, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously. Consensus was to have Vice-Pres. Rich serve as first alternate and Jon as second alternate.
- To be ratified by all WIDs in March meetings
- First meeting of AWB – projected to be the week of March 30th
These meetings will be open to all WID board members that choose to attend.

III. New Business

- A. Ditch Maintenance

- Spray program – cost is under \$2k for road ditches in the NLWID
- Mowing – potential cooperation with County, State – Henry has contacted both. Jeff Gollen of Whatcom County Public Works plans to attend the South Lynden WID meeting Tuesday. Board members are interested in sitting in that discussion. It was suggested that Frank Corey and WDFW be brought into the discussion in the near future as well.

- B. Water Quality

- Discussion on meeting organized by Dairy Federation and North Lynden WID – Leroy and Henry had attended. They reviewed the agenda which focused on the Pollution Identification and Correction program that was developed by the Portage Bay Shellfish Committee and adopted by the County. The PIC program closely parallels the ideas of the Conservation Resource Management program that guides the Conservation Districts. The group universally felt there was need for better identification of the problem and communication about monitoring results.
- There seemed to be a consensus that the developing AWB would be a good spot for developing and implementing a strategy to address this problem among farmers. But there also was a recognition that some immediate steps/actions needed to be taken to alleviate regulatory and legal risks. Leroy moved to “commit the LWID’s involvement with the CRM program in order to aggressively support a positive response to the fecal coliform challenge”, Rich seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Mike asked if this group was dealing with nitrate issues. Not at this time. The focus of CRM is on the immediate risk of fecal coliform issues in shellfish beds but all were conscious that nitrate issues would not be far down the line. The experiences of Yakima dairies were cited.

C. Development of WID Comprehensive Plan

- Build a consultant team from RFQ responses. Needed help is in hydrology, fish biology, and report editing.

D. Groundwater Modeling

- Looking for monitoring wells – install data loggers for 2 years
- Pump test sites – this spring

E. Education

- Conservation District newsletter is coming out soon
- Web site established www.laurelwid.com.
- Content like pictures, reports, etc. requested to improve the site

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Roger moved to adjourn at 11:31. Next meeting is March 9.

Prepared by: Henry Bierlink

Approved by: _____