

Laurel Watershed Improvement District
Minutes for: September 11, 2017 Meeting, 10 am - noon
Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input type="checkbox"/> o	Leroy Plagerman	<input type="checkbox"/> o	Roger Blok	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Jon Maberry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	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"/>	David Haggith	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Aneka Sweeney
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Andy Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Eric Sundstrom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Debbie Van Weerdhuizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Seaman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob McWhoter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Jason Van Weerdhuizen

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of June 12 Minutes - Jon moved approval of the June minutes, Rich seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1				
2017 Assessments Received		\$29,445.72		
Fund Balance 6/1/2017		\$42,688.41		
Fund Balance 7/1/2017		\$35,196.69		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$35,196.69
Outstanding bills:				\$8,399.34
Ag Water Board	<i>July, Aug AWB Admin</i>		\$5,630.34	
Enduris	<i>Insurance premium</i>		\$2,769.00	
N3	<i>Water Quality testing</i>			
End of Month Balance				\$26,797.35
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>		<u>Balance</u>
AWB	33,782	22,521.36		11,260.64
Projects	12,369	3,616.00	(\$3,000 DNA)	8,753.00
Insurance/Adm	3,691	2,994.86		696.14
	49,842	29,132.22		20,709.78

Rich moved approval of the financial report, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- A. Review Priority Issue and Activity lists

Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
1. Water rights	Support the AWB for efforts in legal negotiation and lobbying	
	Provide education about water rights to WID members, consider a workshop	Illustrate who is doing what to address water supply issues.
2. Drainage	Develop a 5 year plan for drainage	Ask Frank when he could help develop a Laurel plan

3. Water quality	Set up the DNA testing for water quality	Look to S Lynden WID to lead.
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B. 2018 Workplan & Budget

- a. Budget planning for 2018 – assessment rates – AWB is likely to present a budget request very similar to 2017. The WID needs to assess its project needs and determine if a change in WID assessment rate is needed. A decision needs to be made at the October Board meeting. The LWID’s project budget is \$12,369. Anticipated expenses in 2018 include \$2,500 for a Programmatic drainage permit, \$2,200 for preparing a Comprehensive Plan, and \$1,000 in case of an election costs. That leaves \$6,669 for other projects.
- b. Nominations – Mike & Rich – Jon moved to nominate Mike and Rich for another three-year term, Rich seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- c. Legal Notice - must be published in Lynden Tribune October 18, 25, November 1

DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE – all Watershed Improvement Districts

Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – one position in Bertrand, two in Drayton, two in Laurel, one in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o’clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.

2) Inspect the 2018 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in the Bertrand will be heard at 2pm, November 13th, for Sumas at 1pm, November 14th, for South Lynden at 3pm, November 14th, for Laurel at 10am, November 13th, for North Lynden at 10am, November 21st, and for Drayton at 3pm, November 21st, all at the District’s office. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 18th to November 11th.

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts’ offices located at 1796 Front Street, Lynden.

III. Water Supply

- A. Olympia Report – Hirst and funding for water projects – Olympia is stalemated. There is potential for a \$450k grant to the County to facilitate water discussions and help develop more management tools in the yet to be passed Capital Budget.
- B. Water Supply Work Group report – Henry noted that the Water Working Group was overseeing the following projects:
 - Drought Contingency planning
 - Infrastructure evaluation
 - Renewed push for negotiations leading to binding agreements

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Ditch maintenance
 - Request from DID #3 (Fourmile) – Jason and Debbie brought a request from the three DID #3 commissioners for support for the Fourmile cleanout project. The budget for the project was uncertain but was estimated to be in the \$30k range. DID has \$30k available but felt that since the WID was organized to assist drainage as portion of the funding should come from the LWID. They requested \$10k, primarily for the mitigation needs in spring, 2018. They were also asking ReSources for some funding support. The Board does not have that amount available at this time but will budget for 2018 with this need in mind.
- B. 5-year programmatic permit – Frank will be asked to work on a full LWID permit in early 2018.

V. Water Quality

- A. Ten Mile Group – Hank noted the Ten Mile group was pursuing a new grant to support bracket sampling and also to support drainage improvement projects.

- B. Monitoring Results – Fred reported that the summer had low counts. He expressed optimism that we could see progress on opening more of Portage Bay for shellfish harvesting based on the improving record.
- C. WCD’s Tenmile watershed assessment – Aneka reported on the NRCS project. Hydrology, land uses, and sources have been gathered. A model is being developed. WCD will be working on the social and cultural dimension with a survey in October.
- D. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – calibration on the River stations has been a work in progress. The Fishtrap station at LCS has been operating well. Discussions are still progressing on the Barrett site.
- A. South Lynden source tracking project – adjustments on the experimental design have taken place due to the lack of rain this summer. It will be a Sept.- November project
- E. WFF/DPC Nitrate Study – Fred reported that a study has been concluded indicating the long-term improvements in County nitrate levels.

VI. Education/Communications

- A. Website - www.laurelwid.com
- B. Water Symposiums – Sept 20-21, Nov. 1. – Henry encouraged WID members to attend these educational opportunities. The September 20th program is of particular interest as both Rich and Brad Rader will be presenting for agriculture. The November 1st program will focus exclusively on water supply issues.
- C. WCD Speaker Series – Aneka provided a list of topics. The AWB is helping to sponsor these talks.
- D. WFF Farmer Rally – Fred provided information on a November 2nd Farmer Rally.

VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Winter newsletter – we will go to a summer/winter newsletter as WFF is planning a spring/fall newsletter
- B. Water Rights letter and future workshop – the potential of increased water right enforcement pointed towards the need to better educate farmers on their legal options. A letter was emailed to all farmers in July. A workshop in late winter remains a possibility but with few enforcement actions this summer it may not be an urgent need.
- C. CAO and impervious surface update – Farm Bureau has led this effort. Consensus is that both issues are being resolved in an acceptable manner.
- D. County water program funding update – Henry noted that the County was leaning towards establishing a storm water utility district in the Lake Whatcom area which would take some financial pressure off the Flood Fund.
- E. Portage Bay Partnership update – Rich expressed hope that the difficulties in making progress were only hurdles in the long process of building relationships that provide both parties and opportunity to communicate.

VIII. Other Items from Commissioners

- A. Debbie reported that Rudd Browne had suggested farmers attend a Tuesday Council discussion on the nature and definition of “ongoing ag”.

IX. Adjournment/Next Meetings

October 9
November 13

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____