

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 10, 2019 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Blok	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hank Kastner
<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input type="checkbox"/> Meg Harris	<input type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman	<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Sundstrom	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler
<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Seaman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob McWhoter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Elder

*x = present*                      *o = absent with notice*                      *t = teleconference*

### I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of April 8 Minutes
- Financial Report – *see financial report in board packet*
- The following vouchers are approved for payment:

Ag Water Board	May, June AWB	\$5,688.22
N3	wq monitoring	

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply – Henry reported:

- Drainage Based Management – will be initiated as a subset of the Water Supply Plan facilitated by the PUD – Drayton and Bertrand are primed to begin as there is funding from grants managed by the PUD and Birch Bay Water and Sewer.
- Streamflow Restoration Grant application – waiting for contracts for higher rated projects to be completed in July, expecting some funding for fall.
- Ecology Rule Making – amending the Nooksack Rule – several conference calls with Bill and Ecology – see comments on the proposed rule @ <http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/comment/extra?start=301&id=GFRjc>  
It was noted that the tribal comments were generally favorable toward our projects with some concerns expressed. The comments from ReSources were opposed to using our projects as offsets for rural wells. A discussion with ReSources is being arranged.
- Nooksack Tribe water right adjudication request – may create more pressure for Ecology although there are numerous other adjudication requests pending as well.
- Drought declaration – grant opportunity that may help us with some seasonal transfers <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Drought-emergency-grants-2019>

### III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- E. Hemmi project update – County and WDFW would not allow this project under the WID’s general permit. The proponents are applying for a new permit.
- Drainage projects – County and WDFW met with all WIDs about projects – all parties seem very pleased with the work on Ten Mile last year. Roger reported the Four Mile project is seeing how many of the trees and shrubs come back after last year’s work. They will fill in the holes with shrubs next spring. Fred will talk further will landowners around Green Lake to see if there are any helpful projects being considered.
- Update on Floodplains by Design discussions and potential projects – Fred outlined the status of the proposed flood mgt project on ag lands. It is funded for \$500k and we proposed several areas on the River to consider. However, we have also made it clear that farmer participation is on a two-way street. We will give but we also need to have our needs addressed. These are primarily in sediment management and water rights.
  - Sediment management looked to be advancing with a bill reaching the governor that would foster a discussion over sediment management. But this was line item vetoed.

- Water rights discussions have been in neutral for months even though the drainage based management task in the Water Management's 5-year workplan had this process planned to be underway last fall.

Fred canceled a planned tour of projects set for May 31<sup>st</sup> because of these setbacks. That led to a meeting with Paula and the Nooksacks which began to renew our partnership with them on these matters.

#### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Ten Mile Project report – Bob note that tests were good with the exception of one sample on Deer Creek near the City of Ferndale and an unexplained high count on Fourmile near its junction with TenMile. Otter was suggested as a problem at the Deer Creek site.
- b. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – Fred noted this work was gaining some traction in BC.

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

- a. Website - [www.laurelwid.com](http://www.laurelwid.com)
- b. Newsletter – out in June
- c. AAC – Chris Elder reported on work of the Ag Advisory Committee. He circulated some maps indicating the rates of conversion out of ag land since 2004. He noted the land use tools that the AAC is recommending to the County as ways to address the loss of ag land.

#### **VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Sept 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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