

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 10, 2017 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Blok	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry
<input type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Harris	<input type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Sundstrom	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Seaman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob McWhoter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lee First

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of February 13 Minutes
- 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		\$5,118.11		
Fund Balance 3/1/2017		\$20,688.92		
Fund Balance 4/1/2017		\$24,931.62		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$24,931.62
Outstanding bills:				\$6,080.20
Ag Water Board <i>March, April AWB Admin</i>			\$5,630.34	
Ag Water Board <i>website fees</i>			\$225.86	
N3 <i>Water Quality testing</i>			\$224.00	
End of Month Balance				\$18,851.42
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	33,782	11,260.68	22,521.32	
Projects	12,369	1,264.00	11,105.00	
Insurance/Adm	3,691	225.86	3,465.14	
	49,842	12,750.54	37,091.46	

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

II. Administrative

- A. Review and approve Priority Issue and Activity lists

Accomplishments	Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
Supporting the bigger water board	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.

Developing a 5 year plan	2. Drainage	Develop a 5 year plan for drainage	Ask Frank when he could help develop a Laurel plan
Workshop on horse management	3. Water quality	Set up the DNA testing for water quality	Look to S Lynden WID to lead.
Water quality reporting...challenge in bracketing...showing where the problems were noted			
Developing relationships with other groups			
Have discussions on problem areas, identify areas with issues...go out and talk with land owners			
Working with 10 mile group			
	4. Flood Management		

The issues and priorities developed at the All WID Planning meeting were reviewed and amended.

- B. Update Comprehensive Plan – the outline for the Sumas plan was reviewed. No action at this time.
- C. Annexations – Roger talked to Holz. They are not interested at this time. Mike will contact landowners on Paradise Road – Stenke (2 parcels = 27 & 77 acres) and Milstead (1 parcel = 17 acres).

III. Water Supply – Henry reviewed current actions including:

- A. Olympia Report – fate of ESSB 5239 – tied up in budget negotiations. The Tribes remain opposed and the Governor has promised he would not sign what they oppose. Several water attorneys are working together to develop a compromise that could gain support. AWB and Family Farmers are sending support letters for 5239.
- B. Whatcom Water Supply work group – A list indicating the membership and goals of this organization was distributed. Issues being addressed and/or managed by this group include:
 - Lummi Infrastructure project
 - Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project
 - Ground water Modeling
 - Drought Contingency Plan
 - WWSWG Action Plan
- C. Ecosystem Recovery Plan – Whatcom response to Puget Sound Partnership [http://wrialproject.whatcomcounty.org/Get-Involved/Whatcom-Local-Integrating-Organization-\(LIO\)/Whatcom-LIO-Ecosystem-Recovery-Plan/120.aspx](http://wrialproject.whatcomcounty.org/Get-Involved/Whatcom-Local-Integrating-Organization-(LIO)/Whatcom-LIO-Ecosystem-Recovery-Plan/120.aspx) . Henry was concerned that the Plan developed for the Puget Sound Partnership would become the basis for the entire Water Management Plan. It is salmon recovery centric and doesn't deal with issues like drainage.
- D. Watershed Planning Unit – learning phase – summary of plans and actions being developed
- E. Water Bank application – This application is nearly ready to submit to the last review round. It would support work to review water rights and prepare several transfers making use of a water bank.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Ditch maintenance – no discussion

- B. Culvert replacements – the WDFW map of culverts and blockages was displayed. The idea of getting culverts fixed and banking the mitigation for future ditch maintenance projects was appealing.
- C. 5-year programmatic permit – S Lynden is having a 5 Year Plan developed for the entire WID. Frank Corey is preparing it for them.

V. Water Quality

- A. Ten Mile Group – concern about who was doing rain event monitoring was expressed. Leroy moved to have David have the freedom to monitor two storm events over the next two months, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously. The issue of sampling water from outside the WID should not be a concern as that water affects the numbers from inside the WID.
- B. Monitoring Results – lots of good samples but T1 (at the mouth) was high on one of the samples.
- C. ZAP units – one has been approved on the Fishtrap at the LCHS salmon site. The site at the PUD has not yet been calibrated to have confidence in the data. Hanna at Lummi is the contact for it.
- D. Exact Scientific – source tracking technology – Rep. Buys is trying to find some State money to support the \$150k need for developing samples to be used to calibrate the testing equipment.
- E. CAFO Permit – a few are likely to apply for it.
- F. Portage Bay Partnership report – debate over Experts continues. Some progress on the horizon.
- G. Data management – Meg has been hired by the WCD to manage all the water quality data. She noted that a National Water Quality Index assessment was being planned for Whatcom this summer/fall. Nicole is helping to coordinate this.

VI. Education/Communications

- A. Website - www.laurelwid.com
- B. Joint Press release with RESources on meeting target quality goals – Fred will talk with Gerald about the potential for this.
- C. TenMile watershed stakeholder meeting April 24, 3-5pm, @ WCD. The Ten Mile Group really wants to have some WID members attend. Groups invited include: Land Trust, NSEA, WCD, and RE Sources. Fred and Henry will plan to be there. Board members are hesitant to commit in light of the need to be in fields if weather allows.
- D. The Ten Mile Group suggested a Tenmile watershed social event (potluck?) jointly sponsored by the Laurel WID and the Tenmile project group; Bob McWhorter explained it would be a chance to better understand each other outside of the short time in meetings. Early August was suggested as a good time.

VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Legal – Bill Clarke continues to provide legal services and education support in Olympia on a monthly retainer.
- B. AESI instream flow report – Chuck Lindsay’s team has been hired to provide a clearer understanding of how to look at the In-Stream Flow settings on the River and tributaries. They should have a report prepared in the next two weeks.
- C. Strategy review – the list of strategies and actions for the AWB that was generated at the Planning Workshop was distributed. Input should be provided to Mike, the AWB representative from the WID.

Strategy	Lead
<i>Communication/Outreach</i>	
Preserving the “one voice” outreach...continue work with key partners...work together to defend agriculture and get the word out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom Family Farmers – Fred, specific partners – e.g. public affairs people in organizations • Story specific for information • Brad & Rich

Communication and community outreach...message in positive way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
Habitat for species...telling people what farmers are doing to benefit habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Legal	
Continue to identify legal access to water supply...acquiring, getting water where it needs to go	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Henry, Chuck, Greg
Work together on tribal negotiations on water quality and supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation Team, Fred, Greg • Needs expanded and probably a different team as supply is addressed
Legal challenges, and holding them off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry
Quality	
Work together on funding for and implementation of DNA testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David – N3, Landon, Kent,
Water quality projects and how it effects our industry...improving and communicating xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred, • See above
Drainage	
Get permits faster and eliminate some of the paper work – 5 year Programmatic Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karin, Frank, Joel, Henry, Fred
Supply/Access	
Water quantity projects and ability to have water long term for future generations...mitigation banking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry
Organizational/Administrative	
Tracking legislation, rule making, agendas, and impacts at County, State, Federal levels...agriculture representation on committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry, Bill, Fred, partner individuals
Utilize the influence system of collective WIDs including messengers and skills development (training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom Family Farmers
Organize the listing of committees and groups to get agriculture representation on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry, Fred and members

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:05. Next meeting is May 8 provided a quorum can be generated. Farmers will likely be pressed for fieldwork at that time.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____