

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: March 9, 2015 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 type="checkbox"/> o	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	George Boggs		Chuck Lindsay
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Andy Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Erika Douglas		Aneka Sweeney
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Alan Chapman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Steve Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Cynthia Krass

x = present                      o = absent with notice                      t = teleconference

### I. Review and Approval of February 9 Minutes

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:20. Rich moved approval of the February 9<sup>th</sup> minutes, Roger seconded, motion passed unanimously.

### II. Old Business

#### A. RFQ for District Services - *select preferred candidate, establish process for contracting*

- Administration – select preferred candidate(s)
- Engineering – select preferred candidate(s)
- Legal – select preferred candidate, may defer contracting to AWB

The board discussed a strategy for selecting the preferred ADMIN contractor. All the WIDs are hoping for a common ADMIN team. The decision was made to defer selection to the first AWB meeting March 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### B. Ag Water District development

- Finalize Interlocal Agreement – Rich moved to have Mike sign the Interlocal once the language over insurance was clarified, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- First meeting of AWB – March 16<sup>th</sup>, noon. All WID members will be invited to participate. Mike, Roger, and Leroy were able to make that meeting.
- North Lynden WIDs absence from agreement was noted.

#### C. Augmentation Project – Ground water Modeling

- Wells are being sought for ground water monitoring purposes. Board members will look around further. A well along Laurel Road by Systma's was suggested.

### III. New Business

#### A. Ditch Maintenance

- The board was challenged to identify sites for mowing, cleaning, spraying, beaver trapping, and dam removal. The State and County road departments are willing to try to address our requests provided we submit them in spring. The board identified a few troubling drainage sites. They will come to the April meeting with more suggestions. DID ditch maintenance ideas should be done in conjunction with the DIDs. Roger will bring DID #3 concerns to the April meeting, Rich will talk to Jim Bjornstad about DID #6's concerns. Henry will look into who might best represented DID #30A's concerns. How to help manage private ditches outside of DIDs has yet to be addressed.
- George presented examples of the drainage guidance manual and plans that the WCD had helped other DID's and the North Lynden WID develop. He noted that the WCD, along with other partners in the Puget Sound, has participated in a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) which has resulted in \$9 million being made available for water quality, salmon recovery, and farmland protection goals. He encouraged the WID to look at this opportunity as they

develop their plans and projects. His advice is to work with partners like the Tribes to pursue these goals as the projects that reflect multiple and often adversarial groups are the ones that in best position to attract funding support.

B. Water Quality

- Erika (County) outlined the types of water quality testing that have been occurring. There are **Routine**, Long Term monitoring sites (only at Barrett Lake crossing Paradise), **Focus area** testing primarily done by DOE and WSDA, **Bracket testing** where high counts point towards trying to isolate the source, and **Storm Sampling**. The challenge to the LWID was to help identify additional water quality testing sites, especially on private properties where the agency have limited access.
- There was discussion about the mystery of why counts are going up. Dairy farmers feel the heat and are hopeful that the identification process will not simple center on dairies as the easiest targets.
- Connection with the group led by Si Eldred was encouraged. That group is currently focused on Deer Creek. Funding for their monitoring will end in June. The County is offering \$5k to help. More will be needed to keep the current sampling effort going.

C. Update of WID Comprehensive Plan - pick contractor team from RFQs once the AWB is functioning.

D. Education

- Website [www.laurelwid.com](http://www.laurelwid.com)
- Newsletters – WCD has an article introducing WIDs
- Assessment questions – Henry is happy to redirect them to board members. The board is willing to talk to those who have questions. If Henry gets calls he should take their name and number and direct them to the Board members. Landowners are welcomed to send the Board questions and appear at meetings. But the onus will be on the property owners to show they are getting no services from the WID before the WID may consider removing their property from the 2016 Assessment Role.
- Leroy suggested a letter to the Editor of the local newspapers refreshing landowners on the WIDs and what their goals and potential projects may be. Henry offered to start drafting a letter with the hope that the WID Presidents could edit and sign.

E. Other Items from Commissioners

- Mike brought up deer damage to crops. He has major challenges. He has been able to obtain a WDFW permit to take 2 deer per year but that doesn't touch the problem. Alan offered to check with tribal members to see if there was any interest in helping.

## IV. **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

Roger moved to adjourn at 12:01. The next meeting will be April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

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