

Laurel Watershed Improvement District
Minutes for: June 12, 2017 Meeting, 10 am - noon
Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

o Leroy Plagerman x Roger Blok x Jon Maberry
 x Rich Appel x Mike Boxx

 x Henry Bierlink x Fred Likkel x Hank Kastner
 David Haggith x Meg Harris x Aneka Sweeney
 x Andy Ross x Eric Sundstrom x Kasey Cykler
 x Bob Seaman x Chris Leurkins x Scarlett Graham
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of April 10 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		\$28,955.10		
Fund Balance 4/1/2017		\$24,931.62		
Fund Balance 6/1/2017		\$42,688.41		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$42,688.41
Outstanding bills:				\$7,982.34
Ag Water Board <i>May, June AWB Admin</i>			\$5,630.34	
N3 <i>Water Quality testing</i>			\$2,352.00	
End of Month Balance				\$34,706.07
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	33,782	16,891.02	16,890.98	
Projects	12,369	3,616.00	8,753.00	
Insurance/Adm	3,691	225.86	3,465.14	
	49,842	20,732.88	29,109.12	

Jon moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Roger seconded, motion passed 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.	No action yet. Possibly in combination with other WIDs later this fall.
2. Drainage	Develop a 5 year plan for drainage	Frank help develop a Laurel plan this fall.

3. Water quality	Set up the DNA testing for water quality	Agreed to support SL pilot Project up to \$3k
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- B. Comprehensive Plan development – willing to wait on the other plans being developed to see how it is going. Concerned about having enough project budget this year. Should be incorporated into 2018 budget planning.
- C. Annexations – Mike talked to landowners on Paradise Road – Stenke (2 parcels = 27 & 77 acres) and Milstead (1 parcel = 17 acres). Both are agreeable to be annexed. Henry will get Mike a copy of the petition to be signed.

III. Water Supply

- A. Olympia Report – the fate of ESSB 5239 (Hirst Fix) is still up in the air. The AWB has been working with Bill and other local partners to have some suggested budget language to be inserted to final budget negotiations should the opportunity present itself. Bill is floating this idea with other groups including the Lummis.

- Whatcom Water Action Pilot Program proposal - 2 years - \$150k/yr.

(X) \$300,000 is provided solely to establish the Whatcom Water Action Program (WWAP). With these funds, the department shall retain a qualified consultant to develop a multi-purpose water resource program capable of providing both technical and market analysis of existing water rights, changes of existing water rights, mitigated water rights, and development of new water infrastructure, including but not limited to storage, pipelines, aquifer recharge, and other projects. The program would be designed to meet water resource needs for both instream and out-of-stream needs, and be capable of supporting future water resource agreements. The program will analyze demands, design supply options, and create an exchange service where access to water will be methodical and transparent; including water uses for agriculture, rural residents, municipal supply, and instream flows. The department shall establish a steering committee for the program, which shall include major water resource stakeholders and federally-recognized tribes.

- B. Whatcom Water Supply work group – Henry provided a brief summary of projects this group was working on including:

- Lummi Infrastructure project
 - Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project
 - Ground water Modeling
 - Drought Contingency Plan
 - Action Plan

- C. Water Right Workshop – Ecology noted they have been involved in several of these and are happy to help with more. AESI and RH2 are also likely partners. The board was inclined to work with other WIDs and the AWB to organize something like this this fall.
- D. Water Exchange/Banking – A Pilot Program proposal to the AWB was reviewed.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Ditch maintenance – the Fourmile DID has a 5 year plan and permits. They are doing some projects this summer. Roger will bring a request for partnership/support to the September WID meeting. The area east of Hannegan needs attention in future years.
- B. 5-year programmatic permit – The Ten Mile drainage has no DID. Preparing a programmatic permit would be a lot of work. We will discuss with Frank Corey about working on this this winter.

V. Water Quality

- A. Ten Mile Group – The Board sought to better define the relationship with the Ten Mile Group. Hank spoke for the group noting that ReSources was a partnering but not controlling part of the group. Current funding for monitoring comes directly from the County and not through ReSources. The Ten Mile group would like to help steer towards a better relationship between Ag and ReSources. The WID Board noted that they valued the relationship with the Ten Mile group but did not have a trusting relationship with ReSources. Rich offered to talk with Lee First again.

- B. Monitoring Results – Fred noted there were some quality challenges in mid-May following a large, unexpected, rainfall event. Most of the regular issues still are in Deer Creek which presented a challenge as only a portion of this watershed is in the WID. Ecology was encouraged to stay active in this area. David was encouraged to keep monitoring specific sites (DCA, SFDC3, and DChill) but slow down on sample numbers and locations throughout the summer.
- C. WCD’s Tenmile watershed assessment – Aneka, Meg, and Scarlett reported that the Ten Mile watershed was one of 3 in WA State selected to be part of the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). A Watershed Assessment is currently being prepared. This is building on the work that has previously been accomplished. The second step, likely this fall, is to develop an Outreach Plan based on social indicators examining landowners willingness to adapt practices and what best motivates them to do so. A survey of landowners will be prepared and conducted. The LWID board agreed to: 1) allow the CD to use the water quality data we’ve collected, and 2) help write and co-sign a cover letter introducing this project to the area landowners.
- D. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – Scarlett reported that three units are installed and are being calibrated. There is funding for three more units. There was a desire to have one near the mouth of the Ten Mile. The pump house used by Scott Bedlington and Leroy was deemed a good option. Fred observed that as the CD works with landowners for ZAP installation there should be a clear landowner agreement that protects farmers from misuse of the information generated at these sites. Scarlett agreed to talk to George about this.
- E. Exact Scientific – source tracking technology – A large scale DNA proposal has been prepared for consideration in the State budget. In the short-term, in order to demonstrate how this technology could be put to use Exact has crafted a proposal to do a pilot project in the South Lynden WID on the Scott Ditch reach between Strandell and Nolte Road. Depending on the level of effort costs would be between \$4,500 and \$18,900. The larger effort is being considered but South Lynden does not have that amount of project budget. LWID approved up to \$5k in October to support this kind of work but since this is outside the WID a revised request needs consideration. The Board agreed that the information generated in this project would be applicable to our concerns as well. There was consensus that up to \$3k could be applied to this work. Chris offered to have people at Ecology review and provide input on this if needed.

VI. Education/Communications

- A. Website - www.laurelwid.com
- B. Water Symposiums – Henry distributed the agenda for Day 1 of the Sept 20-21 “Baker to Bay” symposium. Rich has agreed to present the Ag perspectives on how we view the Ecosystem. A second symposium specific to water supply is being planned for Nov. 1 or 2.
- C. WCD Speaker Series – Aneka alerted the Board to the opportunity to help co-sponsor the fall/winter speaker series. A proposal will be considered in September.

VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Spring newsletter is out.
- B. AESI instream flow report was presented to Water Supply Committee and will have more discussion at the AWB meeting.
- C. Portage Bay Partnership update (in Executive Session)

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

July 10 and August 14 are likely to be cancelled September 11

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____