

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 11, 2018 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Leroy Plagerman Roger Blok Jon Maberry
 Rich Appel Mike Boxx

Henry Bierlink Fred Likkel Hank Kastner
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 9 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – Henry was reminded to add the \$3k commitment o the Chasteen Road project to the “Committed” column.
- c. Jon moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Leroy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Ag Water Board

- a. AWB “Next Steps” proposal and the background surrounding current actions is summarized in a Draft AWB Water Supply position paper being reviewed by AWB board. Bill drafted this paper and hopes to have us use it as a snapshot of our motives and planned directions. We would use this paper, once approved by the AWB board, to communicate with partners and the public.
- b. Foster Task Force pilot program – opportunity for all WID members with projects that illustrate why Foster is a hindrance
 - a. Preparing a list of applicants by July 1 – a list of 8 is in the works and will be approved by the AWB board at their meeting on the 20th.
 - b. Will apply for funds to cover water right transfer processing and cost share
 - c. R & E and AESI assisting in reviewing potential projects.
- c. Spring Workshop on water right tools - June 5th report – over 20 farmers present. Many of them new to the issues.

III. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Ditch maintenance – Ten Mile @ Chasteen Rd – site permits needed, \$3k approved – Fred will talk to NSEA about helping with some plantings. The County has cleaned the north road ditch on Ten Mile which has helped a lot.
- b. 5-year programmatic permit – completed and submitted
- c. FLIP Report – Fred alerted the board to the opportunities to communicate ag needs in this process and seek funding support. He complimented the Nature Conservancy for their leadership and commitment to involve rather than run over farmers. He expects meetings this fall where WIDs along the Nooksack River will have the opportunity to communicate our priorities to the management group. The communication from the Management Group follows:

Lower Nooksack River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan Update – Land Use Inventory Including Problems and Needs

- *Whatcom County is leading this integrated floodplain planning process over the next few years, and a key part of the early work in it is making sure we have thorough and accurate information on existing land uses along the river*
- *In addition to basic land use information that the project team already has access to (i.e., type of agricultural uses(s), residential, commercial, utilities, roads, etc.) the project team seeks to gather observations and specific information on existing agricultural production problems or needs as may relate to river flooding and drainage*
- *Planning area extends from Deming to Bellingham Bay, and includes the entire floodplain of the river through that length (for discussion purposes, say at least the 100-year floodplain,*

and likely farther out than that from the river's banks, to be determined soon...also includes the Everson-Sumas flood overflow area)

- *The project team is assembling land use information from available records and sources, but that information will not get at local issues on the ground that are important to understand in thorough characterization of existing conditions, before the project team begins to develop potential future solutions that can collectively benefit flooding, farms, and fish*
- *The project team seeks to convene some working sessions in the next few months with several people who are interested to contribute their understanding of problems and needs on the land*
- *The project team will bring maps and other info to fuel those discussions to enable detailed note-taking about site-specific issues, and the results of those sessions will be included in a geographic database that the project team overlays with habitat, flooding, and geomorphic analysis information.*
- *Assume for now that it would be a 2- to 3-hour meeting at a location convenient for WID participants to attend. For each WID we seek to convene a single meeting, and will likely include commissioners for drainage and diking districts that overlap or are nearby on the invite list for the meetings. We will schedule these around the availability of those want to participate.*
- *If you are interested, please let Fred know! And also provide Fred with general information about timing that could work well for you between late June and early September*
- *On behalf of the FLIP Steering Committee, thank you for your input to this critically important planning effort*

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – generally good, some isolated high counts
- b. Ten Mile Project report – including WCD mtg – primarily focused on small acreage farms and septic systems. Rich wondered about the septic along Deer Creek on the outskirts of Ferndale. He suggested that a letter to the City might begin a process similar to what north Lynden achieved with Lynden.
- c. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – Flood issues prevented the installation of the Barrett Road unit. Still a lot of uncertainty surrounding the data from these units.
- d. South Lynden source tracking project report - @ future SLWID meeting – The State is supporting further work on DNA by WCD and Exact Scientific which builds on the work begun in South Lynden.
- e. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred reported good quality in Portage Bay in April. DOH is conducting an enhanced monitoring program in April/May hoping to demonstrate that the spring closures (April – June) might be lifted.
- f. E Coli – Fred noted that the State is moving towards adopting E Coli testing for freshwater standards rather than relying on Fecal Coliform. This will be more precise and helpful for us.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.laurelwid.com
- b. E-Newsletter
- c. WFF – REAL campaign

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

July 9 and August 13 likely cancelled
September 10

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____