

Laurel Watershed Improvement District
Minutes for: October 14, 2019 Meeting, 10 am - noon
Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

<u> </u> o <u> </u> Leroy Plagerman	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Roger Blok	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Jon Maberry
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Rich Appel	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Mike Boxx	
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Fred Likkel	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Hank Kastner
<u> </u> David Haggith	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Meg Harris	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Bob McWhoter

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of September 9 Minutes
- b. Financial Report – it was noted that very little of the 2019 Project budget had been spent. Roger mentioned the trees had not yet been planted for the Four Mile DID mitigation for 2018 ditch cleaning. The \$4k we promised them was provided to them in 2018. No other expenses are anticipated.

Rich moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Leroy and Roger need to be nominated. Jon nominated Leroy and Roger to be renewed on the board, Rich seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. 2020 Workplan & Budget
 - B. Resolution 2019-1 – Setting the 2020 Assessment Rate and Budget
 - C. Resolution 2019-2 – Adopting the 2020 Assessment Roll.
 - D. Rich moved approval of the Resolution 2019-1 and 2019-2, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - E. November 11th Board of Equalization

DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE – all Watershed Improvement Districts

Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – one position in Bertrand, two in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o’clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.

2) Inspect the 2020 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in Laurel will be heard at 10am, November 11th, for Bertrand at 2pm, November 11th, for Sumas at 1pm, November 12th, for South Lynden at 3pm, November 12th, for North Lynden at 10am, November 19th, and for Drayton at 3pm, November 19th, all at the District’s office. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 14th to November 8th.

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts’ offices located at 204 Hawley Street, Lynden.

Public Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 16, 23, 30

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management (DBM) – initiated as a subset of the Water Supply Plan facilitated by the PUD – Initial meeting indicated strong commitment from County, Tribes, PUD, COB, and WDFW. Three pilot areas were selected with process in place to have water supply plans in place by May, 2020. South Fork, Bertrand, Drayton. Challenge to determine how to represent South Fork ag.
- b. Streamflow Restoration Grant – \$150k available this fall for advancing projects described in the grant application – surface to ground conversions and augmentation. Will fund preparation of a list of potential projects and implementation of a conversion and augmentation project within the next two years.
- c. Shared Waters, Challenges, and Solutions – forum on latest developments in local water negotiations – went well! Greg and Turtle facilitated. 100+ attending.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Update on Floodplains by Design discussions and potential projects- October 29 mtg. Fred was more optimistic about the potential for progress in these discussions in light of the initiation of the Water Supply and Drainage Based management discussions.
- b. Ditch mowing – meeting with County September 23rd – Keith, Fred, and Henry met with Travis, Gary, and Paula. Discussed both mowing and cleaning. Hopeful.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results were generally higher around the County due to the first flush and significant September rain. There were just a few sites where numbers caused concern but most of these sites were testing lower in follow-up sampling.
- b. DNA project – Meg reported the WCD had finished its portion of the project by spring. A Reference library was developing. There is opportunity for further work by isolating samples where need for more information would be most helpful. These samples can be frozen and used for future DNA screening when funds are available. Cost is approximately \$250/sample. Fred will talk with Kent at Exact about what should be the next steps in advancing and communicating this technology.
- c. Easy Jell – Hank reported a low tech technology that could provide an initial screen on the amount of fecal coliform present in samples. This provides information on if the sample has a lot or a little fecal. It can be done at home but needs an egg incubator.
- d. ZAP – Megan and Fred reported most of the ZAP machines had been removed. The Lummi’s unit on the PUD mainstem diversion is still active but all others are removed. Meg noted that conductivity meters may eventually provide much of the information that the ZAPs had promised to do.
- e. Ecology enforcement – Fred reported he was part of a discussion that is calling attention of the slow response process of Ecology when confronted with habitual and egregious water quality problems on non-dairy sites. The board encouraged him to keep pressing so that water quality issues are fairly and effectively addressed.
- f. Canada – Rich asked about progress with water quality coming out of BC. Fred assured the board that progress was being made. Better communication with the agencies up there and a better understanding of how their lack of attention affects us.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.laurelwid.com
- b. WFF Farmer Rally – planned for November 21st.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

November 11 – Roger’s Birthday! - also Veteran’s Day – meeting still is planned.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____