

**Laurel Watershed Improvement District**  
**Minutes for: January 8, 2018 Meeting, 10 am - noon**  
**Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman	<input type="checkbox"/> Roger Blok	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Sundstrom	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler

*x = present                      o = absent with notice                      t = teleconference*

**I. Consent Agenda**

- a. Review and Approval of November 13 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>11/1/2017</u>	<u>Last Month</u>	<u>12/1/2017</u>	<u>ANNUAL TOTAL</u>
2017 Assessments Received		\$6,256.09		\$49,008.92
Fund Balance	\$34,474.12		\$40,730.21	
Beginning Year Balance			\$25,929.83	
Outstanding bills:				<b>\$2,815.98</b>
Ag Water Board	<i>Jan AWB Admin</i>		<b>\$2,815.98</b>	
N3	<i>Water Quality testing</i>		<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>End of Month Balance</b>				<b>\$37,914.23</b>
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	33,782	33,782.00		0.00
Projects	12,369	3,616.00	\$3,000.00	5,753.00
Insurance/Adm	3,691	2,994.86		696.14
	<b>49,842</b>	<b>40,392.86</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>6,449.14</b>

There was confusion over the phrase “the inconsistency of not reporting this data was discussed” in the Water Quality report from the November minutes. It was decided to scratch this phrase. Rich moved to approve the amended consent agenda, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**II. Administrative**

- a. Election of Chair for 2017 – Rich moved to support Mike to remain the Chair, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Audit Review – a brief discussion of what the Audit covered and the Audit results was held. Mike noted he had talked to the Auditor and all seems to be in order.
- c. Review Priority Issue and Activity lists – Develop 2018 Action priorities – consider development of comprehensive plan. Jon moved to contract with FHB Consulting to prepare a Comprehensive Plan along the lines of what had been done for the other WIDs. A cap of \$2,200 was determined. Leroy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**III. Water Supply**

- a. Hirst/Foster fix bills – Bertrand is proposed as a pilot project in the “Foster Fix” bill.
- b. Review and discuss “Next Steps” draft from AWB Board – The board was presented with some background on how the Watershed Management Board has developed and what opportunity there is to help them focus on some tangible tasks in the near future. The AWB’s proposal to engage in developing agreements through drainage based management plans is one of the major ideas being considered. Other tasks include water quantity and

quality monitoring, further development of the surface and groundwater models and budgets, and a basin-wide Water Supply Plan.

AWB has tentatively approved the “Next Steps” proposal but needs to vet it with each WID before taking it to a broader audience. The WIDs are asked to agree with continuing work on developing the proposal and for ideas to make it better. LWID discussion raised numerous questions with much of the discussion about how the Tribal fish concerns might be addressed so that the Tribes would see drainage based management as a significant step in resorting fish runs. There are questions if farmers have anything within their control to actually address fish restoration needs.

The Board agreed to keep the dialogue going with the AWB which intends to hold several Strategy Development Sessions between their quarterly board meetings. All WID commissioners are encouraged to participate. The next session is scheduled for 1pm on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

- c. Support from State via \$450k budget request – The AWB, PUD, and Whatcom County request for State assistance in implementing the WRIA #1 Management Plan is likely to be funded from an allocation to Ecology coming out of the Hirst/Foster fix bills being debated. This would provide for much of the expense of implementing the drainage based management concept.

#### **IV. Drainage/Habitat**

- a. Fish/Flood meeting – Fred summarized the discussion between farmers and Ned Currance (Nooksack) and Alan Chapman (Lummi). All agreed it was a valuable exchange of information. Fish runs are down 25% from the time when they were listed. Concerns are placed more upstream and in the ocean than in the lower watershed. But we can do something and the farmers agree we need to do our part.
- b. Ditch maintenance – the area of Ten Mile Creek around Chasteen Rd. was discussed. Fred will contact the County to request cleanout of the north ditch along Ten Mile Rd. east of Chasteen.
- c. DID #3 (Fourmile) mitigation plan – plan funds for spring mitigation planting. Frank estimates the costs to be approximately \$9k. DID #3 board has asked us for \$10k. Fred will ask them to come back to discuss this at the February board meeting.
- d. 5-year programmatic permit – Frank has developed these for the North and South Lynden and Sumas WIDs. He can use those templates to do one for the entire Laurel WID as well. DID #3 already has one but the rest of the WID does not. His cost is estimated at \$1500 and permit fees in the \$2,000 range. Jon moved to approve contracting with Frank to get this done. It was not seconded. The discussion turned to how much this type of work was saving the County as they did not have to pursue individual permits and mitigation for their ditch cleaning projects. The Board felt there should be some shared costs in developing the permit. Fred will talk to the County about this. The Board expects to pursue the permit once funding for the work is resolved.

#### **V. Water Quality**

- a. Ten Mile Group – Hank and Andy reported samples were generally good.
- b. Monitoring Results – Fred reported the December 12 numbers were very good, the December 19 numbers not so good following hard rains. There were some high counts in Portage Bay as well.
- c. WCD’s Tenmile watershed assessment – Meg reported they had over 200 surveys returned. They expect them to be analyzed by February. A meeting to share the results and discuss where this leads has been set for March 1 ([invitation letter attached](#)). The Board suggested this would be a good opportunity to help develop our Comprehensive Plan and may also serve as the March LWID monthly meeting.
- d. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – Meg reported that there are three units in service (*River at PUD and Lynden intake, and Fishtrap at LCHS*) and three on the way. The next two will be installed on Double Ditch at the border and Bertrand at Rathbone. The third may be installed as a semi portable unit on a trailer with its own water and power

source as well as security. Turbidity has been a complicating factor in providing reliable readings.

- e. South Lynden source tracking project – Fred noted the data analysis would be done in January. Results are expected to be reported at the South Lynden WID’s February meeting.

## **VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Website - [www.laurelwid.com](http://www.laurelwid.com)
- b. Educational Forums – The WCD reminded the board of two upcoming educational events – the Manure Management Training on January 10<sup>th</sup> and the Small Farm Expo on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **VII. Ag Water Board**

- a. Winter newsletter – A newsletter is planned in February – the Laurel WID report should include the WCD Survey, report on the work of the Ten Mile group, and drainage work.

## **VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

February 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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

### **Draft of WID Report**

The Laurel WID continues to invest in water quality monitoring both on its own and in cooperation with the Ten Mile group which is dedicating volunteer time to improve the Laurel area watershed. Improvements in water quality have been demonstrated which reinforces our efforts. But there is still work to do. The LWID has also invested time into exploring ways to improve drainage and the process of obtaining drainage permits. We are discussing partnerships with the County and the Four Mile Drainage District to advance this idea. We also partnered with the Conservation District and NRCS on a survey of the effectiveness of water quality programs. We also contributed to the South Lynden WID’s pilot DNA study. We remain dedicated to developing a 5-year Permit for drainage projects within our WID and are taking steps to develop a Comprehensive Plan similar to the outline developed for the several other WIDs.