

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: November 14, 2016 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Leroy Plagerman       Roger Blok       Jon Maberry  
 Rich Appel       Mike Boxx

Henry Bierlink       Fred Likkel       Hank Kastner  
 Andy Ross       Eric Sundstrom       Chris Leurkins  
 Bob Seaman       Bob McWhoter       Lee First

x = present      o = absent with notice      t = teleconference

### Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Mike called the Hearing to order at 10:06. With no one present to challenge the assessment roll Rich moved to adjourn the hearing, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of October 10 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1	\$0.00			\$0.00
2016 Assessments Received		\$43,306.85		
Fund Balance @ 10/1/2016		\$25,004.69		
Fund Balance @ 11/1/2016		\$30,587.97		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$30,587.97
Outstanding bills:				\$2,906.40
Ag Water Board <i>November</i>		\$2,312.40		
N3 <i>Water Quality testing</i>		\$594.00		
<b>End of Month Balance</b>				<b>\$27,681.57</b>
	<u>2016 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	27,798	18,836.86	8,961.14	
Projects	18,394	5,910.00	12,484.00	
Adm/Insurance	3,650	3,611.00	39.00	
	<b>49,842</b>	<b>28,357.86</b>	<b>21,484.14</b>	

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

### II. Old Business

- A. Ag Water Board report
  - Legal
    - Lummi Settlement Update (in Executive Session)
- B. Ground water Modeling - model review is taking place
  - The Final Draft Conceptual Model Report has been uploaded to the WRIA 1 project website and is available for review. Comments on the report are due December 1st. <http://wria1project.whatcomcounty.org/Resource-Library/2016-Draft-Phase-2-Data-Collection-And-Conceptual-118.aspx>. The use of the model to help identify a reasoned mitigation for the effect of ground water withdrawals

on surface flows was discussed. Rich asked if the AWB intended to comment. Henry hadn't planned an official comment as the work is primarily technical. He will check with Dale Buys at Reichardt and Ebe about making technical comments.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **A. Administrative**

- Board nominations – Roger and Leroy the only nominees – they will each serve a 3 year term.

##### **B. Ditch & Dike Maintenance**

- Ditch maintenance - Fred noted that there had been little mowing work done in the County this summer and some farmers were concerned about it. The Bertrand Board would like Public Works to come to a future WID meeting and discuss the potential of working with the WIDs to maintain ditch mowing in a public/private partnership between the County and the WIDs. Fred will contact Jeff Gowan.
- Programmatic Drainage Permits - WCD Grant application in – hopefully know by the first of the year. This would help us develop a 5-year maintenance plan for mowing, spraying, and cleaning.

##### **C. Water Quality**

- Ten Mile group water quality monitoring report – A high count on Axton was discussed. Bob and Mike will talk to the landowner. Chris reported that the ZAP unit in Ferndale had counts over 1,000 8 times over the past few weeks. Hank reported on the septic letters going out. They started with 1,700 and are down to 100 no-responses.
- Exact Scientific – source tracking technology paper was distributed. They are seeking \$90k to make the equipment they purchased operational. The board is open to discussion about how they may help
- Report on landowner contacts - Three landowners were contacted

##### **D. Water Quantity**

- Whatcom Water Supply Coalition – has not been meeting the last months but has a meeting planned to mid-November. The County's plan to address the *Hirst* case will be a prominent agenda item for a while. Henry noted that the Legislature would have numerous proposals to consider to try to address the implications of this decision. Bill will be seeking opportunities to address irrigation and stockwater concerns in these bills. There is also a need to determine the difference between impact and impairment of groundwater withdrawals in closed basins.

##### **E. Education**

- WCD Speaker Series – Laurel program on January 19<sup>th</sup>
- WFF Farmer Rally being planned for November 15<sup>th</sup>. A guest speaker from the Klamath Basin will provide some thoughts.
- Booth for the AWB and WIDs at the Small Fruit Conference – Nov 30-Dec 1. Henry will obtain large maps of each WID. Fred will work with Gerald to get banners, etc. for the AWB booth. Fred will work on a poster better explaining the relationship between the AWB and Family Farmers.
- Website [www.laurelwid.com](http://www.laurelwid.com)

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

December 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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