

Laurel Watershed Improvement District
Minutes for: April 13, 2015 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 = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of March 9 Minutes
- B. Financial Report

| | <u>Original</u> | | | <u>Balance</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | <u>Amount</u> | <u>This Month</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Available</u> |
| Grant #1 | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| Grant #2 | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| Fund Balance @ 4/1/2015 | | \$2,911.86 | | |
| Accounts Receivable | | | | |
| Invoices Submitted for reimbursement | | | | |
| TOTAL Available | | | | \$2,911.86 |
| Outstanding bills: | | | | \$0.00 |
| Whatcom Farm Friends | | | | |
| N3 | | | | |
| End of Month Balance | | | | \$2,911.86 |

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

II. Old Business

A. Contracts for District Services

- Administration – Jon suggested we may want to consider stating a cap amount for the contract and a process by which cap increases could be made. The budget approved in November did not seem to provide that assurance not did the contract being considered. There was a willingness to try this for one year without capping the contract. Henry will be sure to watch the total costs and let the board know when it approaches the \$4,500 amount adopted in the 2015 Budget. Jon moved to approve the contract as drafted, Rich seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- Water Quality/Drainage - Fred made clear that most of the N3 work would be funded by the AWB. The board asked if he would be able to get the needed hydraulic permits in place for the WID, the DID's and the individual farmers to maintain the drainage systems. Rich moved to approve the contract with N3, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

B. Ag Water District – Mike and Henry

- Legal – AWB has contracted legal support for them, member WIDs, and landowners within these WIDs.
- Media relations – Farm Friends is sponsoring a crisis management workshop. AWB is exploring ideas and projects that will help present a reasoned ag perspective on timely issues. The Board recognized that farming is under attack by some sectors and that they would have no difficulty applying some of their funds towards media and crisis responses.

- Budget – AWB is considering an Annual budget of just under \$100k. \$20k each for admin and water quality/drainage, \$36k for legal, and \$12-15k for countywide projects.

III. New Business

A. Ditch and Dike Maintenance - Fred

- Fred distributed a stream maintenance guide that describes streams/ditches in three categories – streams, modified watercourses, and ditches. Permits are need for the first two, not for the ditches.
- The board discussed sites needing maintenance. Emphasis was on the main streams and watercourses which need to be open to facilitate good field drainage. Ten Mile Creek west of DID #3's boundary is a concern.
- Rich reported DID #6 was thinking about expanding to help drain a larger area but the process bogged down. The WID could help coordinate the drainage needs there.
- The board assumes most private ditches will be maintained by the landowners. If permits are needed the WID should help obtain them.
- Waylon Eldred hopes to attend a future WID meeting to help coordinate the efforts of the Ten Mile Project staffed by ReSources with the plans of the WID.
- A Map of classified streams/ditches and wetlands was requested for the next meeting.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results were discussed. The Ten Mile Project is focusing monitoring in Deer Creek. Focusing on E Coli bacteria rather than just fecal coliform was again emphasized.
- Maintaining some \$\$\$ in the project budget for testing was agreed upon.
- Fred asked who would be available to attend the April 17th CRM meeting, 10 am to 12:30. Most of the board was interested.

C. Update of WID Comprehensive Plan

- Potential grant applications – An outline of what is needed in a plan and a team prepped to work on developing and implementing a plan is crucial. Henry is working to develop that team and plan for WID consideration.
- Possible Interlocal Agreement with WCD – Will be considered as the partners better define their respective roles.

D. Education –

- Website www.laurelwid.com - Henry requested some latitude in billing over the next months as the enhanced website is put into place. His sense is that there will be some hours charged by WFF on behalf of their website designer. This should be understood as an investment in communications both for WID members and for an external audience that wants to have confidence in what we are doing.

E. Other Items from Commissioners

- Rich offered a monitoring well for the groundwater modeling project.
- Henry provided a brief update on water rights discussions.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

May 11

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____