

Laurel Watershed Improvement District
Minutes for: February 13, 2017 Meeting, 10 am - noon
Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Blok	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry
<input type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel	<input 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"/> David Haggith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Murphy	<input type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Ross	<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Sundstrom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Seaman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob McWhoter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lee First

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of January 9 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1				
2017 Assessments Received		\$453.15		
Fund Balance 1/1/2017		\$30,092.25		
Fund Balance 2/1/2017		\$30,545.40		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$30,545.40
Outstanding bills:				\$3,855.17
Ag Water Board <i>Feb AWB Admin</i>			\$2,815.17	
Ag Water Board <i>sponsorships</i>			\$200.00	
N3 <i>Water Quality testing</i>			\$840.00	
End of Month Balance				\$26,690.23

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	33,782	5,630.34	28,151.66
Projects	12,369	1,040.00	11,329.00
Insurance/Adm	3,691		3,691.00
	49,842	6,670.34	43,171.66

It was noted that the January voucher of \$6,424 was not reflected in the Fund Balance. This lower the available amount to \$24k. Jon moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

- A. Ag Water Board report
 - Legal - Lummi Settlement Negotiations – Fred noted that “partnership” remains an elusive goal but the Portage Bay Partnership was moving down the road in the right direction. The two lead farms have been identified. Agreement on the technical experts has been more difficult. They are working on a Scope of Work for the experts that will be advanced by both the Tribe and the farmers.
- B. Comprehensive Plan development

- All WID meeting to discuss Comprehensive Plans and strategies is planned for March 21st. Fred has gained approval from the Conservation Commission to get help from facilitator Rey Ledgerwood to advance WID plans and actions. He is available on March 21st and other WIDs have suggested an all WID meeting where Comprehensive Plans, Strategies, and Action Items are both jointly discussed and then broken into each WID discussions. Plans are being made to cancel March WID meetings and to focus on this agenda for March 21st.

IV. New Business

A. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Culvert replacements - <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/fishpassage/> - it is clear that replacing culverts can be a more attractive mitigation for drainage work than tree planting and maintenance. EQIP has dollars to help farmers with culvert replacement which could bank mitigation for the WID.
- Programmatic Drainage Permits - WCD assistance – Frank Corey may have a few hours each month to help WIDs develop 5-year Programmatic Drainage Plans. The Fourmile WID has such a Plan. This would help cover the areas not in a DID or in a DID that had not yet developed such a Plan.

B. Water Quality

- Ten Mile group – the group reported that Ten Mile is meeting the water quality standards at the mouth into the Nooksack River. A success story! Roger wanted to make sure the Ten Mile group were commended for their work to make this happen.
- Deer Creek – The Ten Mile group sees issues there but only a small portion of this drainage is in the Laurel WID. The Board is willing to help with landowner contacts there when there is an opportunity but is hesitant to spend WID \$\$\$ on monitoring on areas outside the LWID boundaries.
- Water quality testing results – David noted some issues in the Silver Springs area. It appears the headwaters have some non-ag sources. The County is working on this.
- ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – calibration has proven to be more difficult than planned. The high numbers in the fall were not generally correlated with lab tests.
- Exact Scientific – source tracking technology is purchased but little movement on testing local e coli sources.
- Report on landowner contacts – Roger will talk with Howard and Judy about their interest in being annexed into the WID.

C. Water Quantity

- Legislation in Olympia – Bill provided a list of water bills with some highlights on bills that are making progress in the system. HB 1885 seems to be the preferred option for our famers as it fixes both *Hirst* and *Foster* and has bipartisan involvement.
- Water Supply Strategy draft is being worked on by the AWB Water Supply committee.
- Whatcom Water Supply Coalition – meets the third Thursday of each month. More water work is coalescing in this partnership which includes the cities, the County, PUD, AWB, Water Districts, and Water Associations. Birch Bay's Deep Aquifer project reports there as does the Drought Response Taskforce, and increasingly the Lummi Infrastructure project.
- Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project – the first well was not a productive as hoped but the second well has exceeded expectations in volume and quality. Another well is being drilled shortly.
- Water Bank grant application – The AWB is submitting an initial application for helping to develop Water Banks to the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

administered by WSDA. The project follows initial work of this nature done by the Snoqualmie WID and helps develop the mechanisms to move water both seasonally and permanently between farmers and other water suppliers.

D. Education

- WCD Speaker Series – Laurel program on January 19th was well attended.
- WSU Water Workshop – February 22
- Website www.Laurelwid.com
- Fred will contact AWB media relations contractor Gerald Baron about the potential of a joint press release with ReSources celebrating meeting the quality standards at the outlet to the River.

E. Other Items from Commissioners

- ReSources support for comments critical of the CAFO permit were as source of frustration to the dairy farmers in the LWID. This was clearly communicated to the ReSources staff in the room. They responded by noting their comments were more statewide in scope but as ReSources is a County group the LWID members saw inconsistencies with the evolving partnership locally and lending support to unfair criticism of the CAFO permit.
- Kasey was asked if there were more enforcement actions like those levied against George Sandhu forthcoming. She noted that this was years in development. With snowpack still behind normal Ecology is concerned about interruptible rights being very useful. They are trying to help with seasonal transfers wherever they can.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

March 21

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____