

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: December 8, 2014 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Leroy Plagerman Roger Blok Jon Maberry
 Rich Appel Mike Boxx

Henry Bierlink _____ Dale Buys _____ Chuck Lindsay
_____ Gary Stoyka _____ Steve Jilk _____ Tom Buroker
_____ Mary Dumas _____ Joanne Greenberg Fred Likkel
_____ Jim Bucknell _____ Heather McKay _____

x = present o = absent with notice

Mike opened the **Board of Equalization Hearing**. No one was present to contest the assessment roll.

I. Review and Approval of November 14 Minutes

Jon moved to approve the November 14 minutes, Rich seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

- A. Finalize Assessment Roll - the Assessment Roll approved at the November 14th meeting was accepted without adjustments.
- B. Adoption of By Laws – Henry reported that Bill Clarke had determined that By-laws are not needed as the governing procedures for the WID are all spelled out in RCW 87.03. Henry noted that the contract for administration with ADC was not quite completed but will be ready for the January meeting.
- C. Insurance – Jon moved to approve Resolution 2014-3 authorizing membership in Enduris for the purpose of providing liability insurance for the WID, Rich seconded, motion carried unanimously.

III. New Business

- A. Ag Water District development
 - Boundary Review Board process – Henry reported that existing governments could raise questions or contest the establishment of the WID by the end of the year.
 - Board of Joint Control petition – on hold until the WIDs have more time to discuss how the Joint Board will be structured. Bill has also noted that there are more concerns with the statute for forming the Joint Boards as they reference the water rights of the member districts and our WIDs do not currently hold water rights.
 - December 17th WID Board training and strategic plan development – all planned to attend. Henry and Bill are arranging an agenda that will include strategizing about action items that all WIDs may choose to take together. The Priority setting discussion will be fed to Bill for preparation for the training on Dec. 17th.
- B. Water Banking Forum – January 8 – a ½ day afternoon session to be held at the Rotary Building. Farm Friends is helping to sponsor and develop the program.
- C. Priority Setting
 - Review of current activities

- i. Water Budget
- ii. Groundwater modeling
- iii. Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program
- iv. Watershed Planning Unit
- v. Coordinated Water Resources Plan update – potable water
- vi. Flood Management Advisory Board
- vii. Drainage Districts – DID #3 – Four Mile and DID #6
- Items to be addressed (in priority)
 - i. Water Rights
 - Need to be prepared to present solid legal arguments
 - Need representation in key forums where water rights are being discussed and negotiated.
 - Protect the water rights we have now
 - Obtain water rights for areas that are not currently permitted
 - Advance water spreading
 - ii. Drainage
 - Ten Mile Creek drainage is not maintained
 - Beavers are a problem in some areas
 - Four Mile Creek is on a three year cleaning cycle.
 - iii. Water quality
 - Need good data on water quality tests
 - See value in WID directed, localized water quality monitoring leading to internal communication with landowners
 - Doubt that water quality issues are a root cause of the lack of fish.
 - Unfair application of regulations leads to competitive disadvantages to those that spend the money to comply.
 - Non-dairy livestock needs to be addressed.
 - iv. Flood management
 - More localized in west portion of WID
 - Even though not all are directly affected all farmers have indirect effects from flooding.

D. Grants - The Board is interested in obtaining grants to assist in project funding. Henry was asked to watch for good matches for the work we envision undertaking. One idea is to develop the Laurel Management Plan similar to what was done in Bertrand and North Lynden.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Mike adjourned the meeting at 11:45. Next meeting is January 12.