

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – March 21, 2023, 9 AM

Board Attending:

Larry Stap Brad Rader Kevin Te Velde
 Kevin Engelsma Harman Brar

Others Attending:

Gavin Willis Henry Bierlink Alan Chapman
 Cynthia May Jay Chennault Katie Faber
 Fred Likkel _____ Bill Clarke _____ David Haggith
 Frank Corey Steve Banham

x – present o – absent with notice t – teleconference p – proxy

Larry called the meeting to order at 9:07.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. February 21 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Brad moved to approve the consent agenda. Kevin T seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Henry updated the board on the legislature’s progress on the adjudication funding and filing request. The proposed bills will include a lengthening of the filing process (up to 4 years total) and will put funds into the local settlement process, as well as provide technical assistance in filing. The bill to update the adjudication timeline passed the house, and just received testimony in the Senate committee. Executive session in the committee later this week to keep it moving forward.

3. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. FLIP Team and water storage meetings are ongoing. The next FLIP team meeting is at the end of April
- b. Fred mentioned that he will be coordinating a remeasuring of some old plantings to see if we correctly calculated banked mitigation credits – there may be some credits available. We are generally in a good place for flow in ditches.
- c. Fred provided an update on buffer legislation. Although the bill died in committee, it is likely that funding will be available via a budget proviso. Overall, increased funding will be available this year from both NRCS and SCC.
- d. Frank provided an introduction on buffers in the WID.
 - i. Studies show that 80-90% of the buffer benefits can be gained from a buffer that is 35-50 feet wide.

- ii. NLWID has some challenges because so much of the watershed is in roadside ditches.
- iii. The WID will have the opportunity to identify priority areas for buffers, and provide encouragement for landowners to participate where appropriate.
- iv. Steve mentioned that the NLWID is incredibly important to the City of Lynden since it is upstream of them. There is the potential for concerns about how buffers and other actions may impact hydraulics of the waterway heading into Lynden, and the City would like to be involved in those discussions. There is an opportunity for the City of Lynden to be supportive of buffer efforts moving forward.
- e. Frank noted that there may be a request coming for the WID to be responsible for 3-4 years of maintenance of 800' of buffer near the border that is not eligible for CREP.
- f. Gavin provided an update on conversations with USDA APHIS on a potential beaver management program. USDA proposed a contract with 240 hours of beaver management work from their local wildlife specialist. The general consensus from the board is that 60 hours will be enough to handle beavers for the year. Gavin will set up a meeting with himself, Larry, and the wildlife specialist to confirm that 60 hours will be sufficient, then Gavin can work with USDA to set up a contract.
- g. Cynthia noted that the WCD board of supervisors election is today (March 21). There is only one candidate on the ballot (Heather Christianson, incumbent and current chair of the board).

4. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided an update on water quality.
 - i. There have been 2 Fishtrap-focused sampling events since the last WID meeting.
 - ii. Depot @ Visser had a high count on Feb 27. That sampling point is the first output from a culvert that begins at the border, so the high count is likely influenced by activity in Canada.
 - iii. A later storm sampling event had high counts coming down Pepin Creek, but Fishtrap mainstem north of Lynden looking good.
 - iv. We are seeing a corresponding bump in Nooksack Mainstem numbers after the input from Fishtrap and Bertrand.
- b. Fred plans to draft a letter to apply pressure on Canada to address high counts coming over the border.

5. Education / Communications

- a. Website – northlyndenwid.com

6. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None

7. Next Meetings

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18th at 9 AM.

Larry adjourned the meeting at 10:30.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____