

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 21, 2017 Meeting, 10am – Noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Bajema	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney
<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Bedlington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Stap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Te Velde
<input type="checkbox"/> Erika Douglas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Darryl Vander Haak
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkell	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Sandal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of January 17 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		\$0.00		
Fund Balance 1/1/2017		\$11,526.61		
Fund Balance 2/1/2017		\$11,526.61		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$11,526.61
Outstanding bills:				\$2,204.50
Ag Water Board <i>Feb AWB Admin, sponsorships</i>			\$2,204.50	
End of Month Balance				\$9,322.11

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	24,054	4,009.00	20,045.00
Projects	9,818	200.00	9,618.00
Insurance/Adm	1,618		1,618.00
	35,490	4,209.00	31,281.00

Brad moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Ag Water Board report

- Legal - Lummi Settlement Negotiations – Larry 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. The tribe has agreed with Nicole but the Lummi selection is still being debated. 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

- Priority setting – Henry gave a short overview of the Sumas WID Plan Outline. This will be advanced as a template for the development of Plans for the other new WIDs and possibly for a reorganization of the existing North Lynden and Bertrand plans.
- 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 Ray 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.

- The Board directed Henry and Fred to provide them some “homework” to prepare for making the March 21st meeting productive.

IV. New Business

A. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Mitigation work for Bender and Assink Road projects – Brad has a commitment from Harlan Kredit’s students to do the planting. Aneka mentioned that the WCD has a plant sale on March 25th and there is often some surplus sold for a good price. Fred wondered if the Portage Bay Partnership might also want to make a contribution.
- Culvert replacements - <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/fishpassage/> - Henry displayed the WDFW Culvert inventory and noted this is an option for mitigation.
- Ditch maintenance – the 5 year Programmatic permit for all NLWID projects seemed to be a wise direction. Larry wondered about the prices Frank had outlined on the description of these permits. Our permit last year did not seem to incur these costs.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results were generally good. There were some very high counts coming across the border in mid-February. Aneka noted that the CD inventory of Fishtrap alerted them to far more non-commercial livestock than they had expected.
- Manure transfer agreements were discussed. The use of manure on berry facilities should have such an agreement in place.
- 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. A unit is planned for just above the Lynden intake.
- Exact Scientific – source tracking technology is purchased but little movement on testing local e coli sources.

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

- Reminder of the WSU Water Workshop – February 22 @ WaterTech.
- Website www.northlyndenwid.com

E. Other Items from Commissioners

- The board again complemented the County Public Works team for the quick response to the snow pack in Double Ditch.
- Fred asked the board about their feelings about farm plans for small operations. No one is excited about more regulatory requirements but on the other hand if farms have to be accountable others should be as well.
- Aneka noted the Small Farm Expo on March 11th and the upcoming WCD Supervisor election on March 14th.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

March 21

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____