

# North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 15, 2021 Meeting, 9 am

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 852 0802 0792 Passcode: 566559

### Board Attending:

Brad Rader                       Harman Brar                       Kevin Te Velde  
 Kevin Engelsma                       Larry Stap

### Others Attending:

Gavin Willis                       Henry Bierlink                       Dale Buys  
 Heather MacKay                       Mark Sandal                       Erika Douglas

*x = present      o = absent with notice      t = teleconference      p = proxy*

Larry called the meeting to order at 9:03.

## I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of March 16 and April 20 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

Voucher #	Payee	Purpose	Amount
NL0621	Ag Water Board	May, June AWB	\$5,041.00
NL0621	Ag Water Board	July, August AWB	\$5,041.00
NL0621	Reichhardt & Ebe	Van Dalen culvert	\$2,000.00
NL0621	Exact Scientific	Avian DNA project	\$1,200.00
		<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>	<b>\$13,282.00</b>

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

## II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. County led Collaboration
  - Legislature provided 2 years funding @ \$125k/yr
  - County Executive meeting with AWB Water Supply Committee – June 8<sup>th</sup> - was summarized. Satpal understands the concerns with an adjudication and shares our goal of illustrating a better path to a solution by the time the 2023 Legislature considers the filing and funding of an adjudication. Tribes remain non-committal to an alternative path. A Tribal meeting with Ecology this month may help them determine their approach to County led collaboration.
  - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report due in July. Will likely be retained as a neutral party able to provide back channel communications with Tribes and Ecology.
  - Conflicting letters from [ReSources](#) and [Family Farmers](#)
  - [Executive's response](#) – challenged ReSources desire to abandon collaboration and focus only on data collection.
  - Request for infrastructure projects – ARA providing \$45 million
- b. Watershed Management Board projects
  - Drainage Based Management - [outline](#)
    - Seeking expansion of outline AND key initial projects from each pilot
  - Regional Water Supply Plan – [data collection](#)
- c. Legal Preparation – AWB Legal committee and Bill Clarke are recommending some steps to prepare for an adjudication, should one actually be filed. We will set aside time at future AWB Board meetings for Executive Sessions as we prepare for litigation. We are planning to rotate Executive Sessions among future WID meetings as well to keep WID boards fully informed as well. Bill is suggesting that all WIDs look at obtaining a water right in the next 18 months. This would help ensure the WIDs have the standing they will need to be part of an adjudication and potential solutions arising in an adjudication or alternative agreement. Henry asked the board members to be alert to any land conversions

where a water right might be purchased. Suggestions to pursue were Heusinkveld, Bays, and Van Zee. Finding a contractor to help us make this purchase and transfer was advised.

### III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Lynden stormwater
  - Draft [Interlocal Agreement](#) – City, BWID, NLWID, DD#4, DID#1 – The board was supportive of moving to approve proceeding with these parties in developing an Interlocal Agreement to address the stormwater issues in west Lynden. The consensus is that the City should lead this project as they have the most pressing concerns.
  - Willamette Partnership potential – Fred has a relationship with this group built on their involvement with Jay Gordon in the Chehalis. There may be some available federal funding to help set up this project.
- b. Van Dalen culvert – approval for use of permit, design funding under RE contract was provided
- c. Double Ditch culvert replacement – seek permit approval – Brad moved to support the design and permitting of this project, Kevin TV seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- d. Ditch Maintenance – Dale approached the board with a request from the Gills who are farming the old Stuit property. They have drainage concerns and were exploring piping the water to the Benson ditch. Dale and others noted the water needs to flow west to Double Ditch. He wondered if the WID might approve funding for some survey work to advance the drainage of several of the properties where the existing ditches are not functioning. The board was not inclined to fund isolated drainage issues which are the responsibility of the landowners but is willing to help facilitate a drainage plan by gathering the owners and helping to develop a cleaning plan. Larry suggested the WCD should be taking on this duty. Dale will check with them. He will help us facilitate a group meeting in the next weeks.

### IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Erika displayed the latest monitoring results which reflected no obvious priority concerns. Some elevated sites in the City and in the north Fishtrap area that merit continued exploration. Good news out of BC on low counts but concerns over staff cuts in the province that may slow down progress there. Erika thanked the board for continued cooperation and the progress made to date. The board agreed and is willing to support the PIC Program educational actions including a fall reminder letter to landowners.
- b. [DNA project – Avian project](#) - Avian project report has been received. It helps clarify some issues but more questions arise. There is some interest in pursuing more data to answer these questions. Fred expects to arrange a fall meeting where Exact can present the data to the sponsoring WIDs and discuss next steps. The board suggested that there was little need to identify every source. For our benefit, it is important to isolate if the source is human, wildlife, or cattle.

### V. Education/Communications

- a. [www.northlyndenwid.com](http://www.northlyndenwid.com)
- b. Henry updated the board on changes at the Whatcom Conservation District. Frank Corey is filling the Interim Ex. Director role with George's June 1 retirement. They seem to have narrowed the search down to three candidates. Alan was reelected to the WCD board and Fred Berman was appointed to the board to replace Larry Davis.

### VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Larry adjourned the meeting at 10:12. Next meetings are September 21, October 19.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_