

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 19, 2019 Meeting, 10 am - Noon

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Board Attending:

<u> </u> t <u> </u>	Brad Rader	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Harman Brar	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Kevin Te Velde
<u> </u> o <u> </u>	Kevin Engelsma	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Larry Stap		

Others Attending:

<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Erika Douglas	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Stacey Beier
<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Fred Likkel	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Randy Honcoop	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Meg Harris
<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Alan Chapman	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Casey Lankhaar	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Jeff Littlejohn

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

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of November 20 Minutes
- Financial Report and payment of bills

Kevin moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Brad seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administration

- Kevin Engelsma appointment was approved by the County Council
- Open Meetings Act training – all board members are required to have training in the Open Meetings Act every 4 years. Most of our board needs this training or updated training. There is a 1- hour training session sponsored by the County at 9am on the 28th in the Courthouse. There may be the opportunity to take the training at a future board meeting or on-line as well. Erika will provide more information.
- Board reorganization – officer election – AWB representatives – consensus is to leave positions the same as in 2018. Larry as chair, Brad, vice-chair, and Kevin as AWB representative.
- Potential candidates for future board positions – Henry distributed a list of farm owners who might potentially be approached as future board members. The idea of Associate Board members who receive the agendas and meeting information but don't have a vote was presented. Board members will review the list, make ownership updates, and suggest candidates to be brought on as associates.
- Annual Review – AWB and Whatcom Family Farmers – general comments supportive of the current organization.
- Strategic Planning – review annual priorities on website – consensus was to leave the same priorities as in 2018.

2019 Action List

- Continue water quality monitoring - work with the county on the PIC program
- include BC and Lynden in these efforts.
- Connect with BC farmers, landowners, and agencies regarding water quality.
- Ditch maintenance on local ditches - demonstrate difference in water quality sampling improvement.
- Continue contacts with neighbors regarding practices - request that ERTS complaints be routed to the NLWID - strive to be the first point of contact.
- Spray ditches annually for Reed Canary Grass
- Make use of 5 year permit for drainage maintenance. Identify drainage projects in Spring. Find funding and complete mitigation for projects.
- Work on Culvert repair and replacement.
- Stay current with groundwater protection efforts.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management – Henry reported that:
 - We expect Ecology funding – not yet approved but a solid chance
 - Puget Sound Partnership Near Term Action funding possible through the Water Supply Plan project.
 - One of the elements in the WRIA #1 5-year Action Plan which the Management Board is beginning to implement.
 - Meeting to set up where, when, and how DBM occurs
 - Likely beginning in Drayton, Bertrand
 - Establish a Core Group that works together in each drainage – 2 WID, 2 County, 2 Tribe, PUD, WDFW, DOE.
 - Fred and Henry are the likely WID representatives with WID Board members working closely with them when DBM is occurring within the respective WID.
- b. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - PU continuing to work on update to 2005 Plan
 - Management Board returning to implementing 5-year workplan
- c. Legislative update – Fred noted there were not many bills of concern introduced in the Legislature that affect ag. There was some discussion of a water right Adjudication in the Nooksack but that doesn't seem to be going anywhere. Labor issues were the most concerning as a bill to make farmers pay additional fees for H2A workers has been progressing.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Lynden – Larry met with Steve Banham to discuss the Pepin Creek realignment project. It appears the Double Ditch/Badger culverts will need to be replaced. There remains a lot of uncertainty in how to best manage the water.

V. Water Quality

- a. Landowner letter – a letter alerting landowners to water quality concerns went out early this month. All the WIDs sent similar letters. Fred reviewed a presentation from WSDA where practices of concern were quite obviously present.
- b. Monitoring Results – Meg and Erika reviewed the latest data. Numbers were generally good but there were some high counts coming across the border in November and December. Enforcement is getting stronger in BC although violators are still far less accountable than they are in WA.
- c. Portage Bay – Erika reported that the spring closures (April – June) have been lifted but DOH is still watching closely as they are not yet convinced that the good numbers of the past years are sustainable.
- d. PIC – Erika noted that the PIC program is very open to ideas on how they can advocate for farmer tools that would help water quality. Storage was discussed as the prime issue. Sediment management also was brought up.
- e. DNA source tracking project report – CD still looking for sampling sites, wildlife
- f. ZAPs – Meg reported that 6 stations are in place and truthing the data is still underway. The mobile unit idea is also being tried and determined if it can provide accurate data.
- g. Ecology Nitrate monitoring project – Fred – selected portions of an Ecology presentation was reviewed. Ecology is hoping for WID cooperation on locating several wells along the border that they could monitor for several years. The WID was Ok with the idea and asked Fred to keep working with Ecology to locate the best wells. They want to be sure that proper agreements are reached with landowners that minimize the risks of having the data work against the landowner.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.northlyndenwid.com
- b. CD Newsletter – Meg distributed the latest version of the WCD newsletter.
- c. PIC Newsletter – Erika will distribute an e-newsletter from the PIC Program

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Pangborn Rd LED stop signs – Brad brought up the dangerous intersections @ Depot and Bender. He suggested the WID send the County a letter requesting upgrades to the stop signs in these intersections. Larry noted the Prairie intersections at Double Ditch and Benson were also routinely violated. A draft letter will be prepared and circulated.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

March 19

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____