

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District Meeting Notes January 22, 2013, 10 am – 11:30 am

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

___	Casey Lankhaar	___	Roger Bajema	___	Don Van Mersbergen
<u>x</u>	Darryl Vander Haak	<u>x</u>	Larry Stap	___	Frank Corey
___	Dale Buys	<u>x</u>	Henry Bierlink	<u>x</u>	John Gillies
___	Steve Seymour	<u>x</u>	Mark Sandal	___	George Boggs

x = present o = absent with notice

The January 22, 2013 meeting of the North Lynden WID was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

Following are discussion notes from the meeting between Larry Stap, Darryl Vander Haak, Henry Bierlink, Mark Sandal and John Gillies.

Spray results from 2011 and 2012; Gillies presented photos of the channel sections treated in 2011 and 2012 to reduce reed canary grass. The treated channel sections had reduced canary grass invasion compared to non treated sections. General consensus was that the treatment resulted in drainage improvement throughout the fall/winter in both years.

Board's authority to levy assessment for drainage maintenance (spraying); Gillies and Bierlink referred to sections of Chapter 87.03 RCW that referenced assessment procedures. It is clear that the board has authority to levy an assessment for drainage maintenance. It is not clear whether or not the assessment levy needs to be voted on by all landowners or if the assessment levy can be approved by the Board of Directors and reviewed and approved through the assessment roll process. Henry asked if the Board would support contacting the attorney Farm Friends is using for water issues to clarify this issue.

Lynden City plans for Double Ditch – Benson Road drainage. Mark Sandal updated those present on the city's plan for drainage/storm water management. Plans call for diversion of Benson Road drainage at a point near the airport, routing it west through a newly constructed channel into a new re-route of Double Ditch which will run midway between Double Ditch and Benson Roads and re-connect with the present Double Ditch channel on the south side of Main Street. There was some discussion as to how this improvement will tie in with the drainage system north of Badger Road.

Mark Sandal is going to check out a possible culvert problem along the east side of Double Ditch within the City limits.

Concern expressed about the support poles for electric utilities obstructing flow in the east Double Ditch channel just north of Badger Rd. Gillies will contact the county to inquire as to how the county handles utility ROW conflicts for this specific area.

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District Meeting Minutes for: April 16, 2013 Meeting, 10 am – 12:00 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Casey Lankhaar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roger Bajema	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don Van Mersbergen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darryl Vander Haak	<input type="checkbox"/>	Larry Stap (Mark)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frank Corey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dale Buys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Gillies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Seymour	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Sandal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Boggs

x = present o = absent with notice

Meeting called to order by Chair Lankhaar at 10:05 am.

I. Consent Agenda

(the following are approved in a single motion if there is a consensus to do so. If a board member cannot consent they can remove the questionable item(s) from the Consent Agenda and discuss it under Old Business).

- a. Approval of minutes –November 20, 2012 meeting –

Motion to approve the November 20, 2012 meeting minutes by Vander Haak, second Bajema. Motion carried.

- b. Financial Report- \$3,400.97 as of 31 March 2013

Motion to approve the Financial report by Bajema, second Van Mersbergen. Motion carried.

II. Correspondence - No Correspondence

III. Old Business

- a. Authority to increase assessment rate – Bierlink, Gillies
Nothing additional has been done on this since the initial review by Gillies and Bierlink. Gillies offered to call an east –side district to inquire as to their use and interpretation of the assessment guidance in 87.03
- b. Follow-up on Puget and Lynden letters – Henry
Bierlink reported that he received an email from Lynden. The city was not interested in pursuing a spray program on the ditch banks within their jurisdiction. Roger Bajema suggested that the board contact the mayor or perhaps get on a council meeting agenda to discuss the issue further.
- c. Review of DOT projects – Badger round-a-bouts – Stap
Bierlink reported that the board has received no further feedback from DOT regarding the boards drainage concerns on the Badger Road round-a-bouts.
Motion by Bajema, second by Vander Haak to draft a letter to the legislative reps expressing concern over the DOT drainage plan for the Badger round-a-bouts. Motion carried.
Gillies will draft the letter and send to board for review and approval.

IV. New Business

- a.** Rick Weg culvert- Weg's culvert has collapsed and is restricting Double Ditch flow. Darryl will contact the county and Rick to see about getting permits for replacement.

- b.** Trees planted on the Jeff Littlejohn section of Double Ditch – Vander Haak expressed concern about the potential for the planting to obstruct flow. Trees and shrubs were planted on the ditch bank down to the water line instead of on top of the bank. Vander Haak wanted to know what agency or group planted this section. Henry B stated that the AROCHA group planted the site.

- c.** Ag-Watershed Fishtrap Pilot project proposal – Gillies, Boggs, Seymour , Bierlink
Gillies outlined the proposed Ag-watershed pilot for Fishtrap, an Ecology funded grant led by Whatcom County. Boggs further outlined how a pilot project where habitat restoration and drainage management are incorporated into an overall district plan that is approved by federal and state agencies as well as tribes would provide regulatory relief and protection from potential legal action. Creation of habitat along Fishtrap would include compensation through public and private funds (foundation grants). Seymour reported on the value of fish habitat on the Fishtrap. It is a productive system with potential for improved production. After much discussion the board decided by consensus to not move forward as a pilot project. They felt the loss of farmland would hurt the local economy and restrict their future options and that regulatory relief could not be guaranteed. Someone could always file complaints and cause harassment even if the measures proposed were implemented.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm . Next regular meeting date is May 21.

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District Meeting Minutes for: October 8, 2013 Meeting, 10 am – 12:00 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Casey Lankhaar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roger Bajema	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don Van Mersbergen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Darryl Vander Haak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Stap	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frank Corey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dale Buys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Gillies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Seymour	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Sandal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heather McKay

x = present o = absent with notice

Meeting called to order by Chair Lankhaar at 10:00 am.

I. Consent Agenda

(the following are approved in a single motion if there is a consensus to do so. If a board member cannot consent they can remove the questionable item(s) from the Consent Agenda and discuss it under Old Business).

- a. Approval of minutes –April 16, 2013 meeting
- b. Financial Report- \$4857.61 as of 30 September 2013
- c. Payment of Bills –

Spraying (combined bill)	\$1924.68
Insurance premium	\$1547.00
Lynden Trib legal notice	\$ 90.00

Motion Stap to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second Bajema. Motion carried.

II. Correspondence - No Correspondence

III. Old Business

- a. Board nominations and appointments – terms ending for Van Mersbergen and Vander Haak.

Motion by Stap to nominate Don Van Mersbergen and Darryl Vander Haak for a new term as director on the N Lynden Watershed Improvement District board. Second Bajema. Motion carried. Note: Don and Darryl must file a written notice with the NLWID secretary declaring their candidacy for position as a director in order to be eligible for appointment to the position, assuming no other candidate files. An election is required if more than one eligible candidate files for the position of director.

- b. Spray program funding – shall the board pay for grass control on the waterways from District funds or shall the owners of the treated areas bear the cost? **Motion by Bajema to bill individual landowners of the treated areas; the cost to be apportioned based on the extent of each individual’s area treated. This funding method is consistent with previous years funding. Second Stap. Motion carried.**

- c. County Ag Land/Watershed grant report – Heather Mc Kay updated the board on the progress and status of the Ag-Watershed Project. The second phase of this grant will work on ways to measure the benefits of specific actions that improve watershed services and agriculture services. The challenge is developing the “accounting tools” that can be used to accurately and easily determine and quantify watershed and agriculture credits such as habitat improvement or flood protection improvement. Two pilot projects have been selected, one on the Bertrand Watershed and the other on the lower Fishtrap. Heather provided the board with a briefing note on the project’s status.

IV. New Business

- a. Resolution No. 2013-01 to set the 2014 budget and Assessment Rate - Bierlink presented Resolution No. 2013-01, the budget and assessment rate for 2014. The budget includes income of \$2,992.00 from assessments and expenses of \$1,550.00 for Directors insurance and \$1,442.00 for administration. The proposed assessment rate for 2014 is \$0.50 per acre on all parcels exceeding 3.0 acres within the district boundaries. **Motion by Bajema to approve Resolution No. 2013-01 as presented. Second Step. Motion carried.**
- b. Resolution No. 2013-02, Establish the NLWID 2014 Assessment Role – Bierlink presented the parcel list showing all parcels within the district that would be subject to the 2014 assessment of \$0.50 per acre. This list will be available for review by district property owners until the Board of Equalization Hearing scheduled for 10am on November 19, 2013 at the District’s office (Farm Friends). **Motion by Bajema to approve Resolution No. 2013-02. Second Step. Motion carried.**
- c. Consideration of Ag District Coalition’s Board of Joint Control proposal – Bierlink provided background on a proposal to address the need for a unified agriculture voice within the county. The idea is that an Ag Water District comprised of existing and future Watershed Improvement Districts (created under RCW 87.03) would create the means for addressing important ag-water issues in a unified manner. Henry plans on presenting this notion at a meeting hosted by county councilman Bill Knudsen later this month.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am . Next regular meeting date is November 19, 2013; Assessment and Board of Equalization Hearing.

Respectfully submitted

John Gillies
WID Coordinator

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District Meeting Minutes for: November 19, 2013 Meeting, 10 am – 12:00 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

___	Casey Lankhaar	<u> x </u>	Roger Bajema	<u> x </u>	Don Van Mersbergen
<u> x </u>	Darryl Vander Haak	<u> x </u>	Larry Stap	___	Frank Corey
___	Dale Buys	<u> x </u>	Henry Bierlink	<u> x </u>	John Gillies
___	Steve Seymour	___	Mark Sandal	___	George Boggs

x = present o = absent with notice

Board of Equalization public hearing

Vice Chair Larry Stap opened the public hearing of the North Lynden WID Board of Equalization at 10:08am. There being no one from the public present to testify at this hearing, Vice Chair chair Stap requested a motion from the board to approve the 2014 North Lynden Watershed Improvement District Assessment Role and to close the public hearing. So moved by Vander Haak, second by Van Mersbergen. The hearing of the NLWID Board of Equalization was closed by Vice Chair Stap at 10:09am.

I. Consent Agenda

(the following are approved in a single motion if there is a consensus to do so. If a board member cannot consent they can remove the questionable item(s) from the Consent Agenda and discuss it under Old Business).

- a. Approval of minutes –October 8, 2013 meeting
- b. Financial Report – **motion by Vander Haak to approve the additional October expenditure to Farm Friends in the amount of \$162.60 for office supplies and stamps. Second by Van Mersbergen. Motion carried.**

October Expenses

10/24/2013	1,924.68	ALL SEASON SPRAYING	683 DITCH SPRAYING
10/24/2013	90	LYNDEN TRIBUNE / LYNDEN PRINT	683 PUBLIC NOTICE
		ENDURIS-WAS WA GOV ENTITY	
10/24/2013	1,543.00	POOL	683 COMMISSIONER IN
10/24/2013	162.6	FARM FRIENDS	683 STAMPS-OFFICE S

October Month End Cash - 2,447.74 (County treasurer report)

Motion by Vander Haak to approve the consent agenda as amended. Second Van Mersbergen. Motion carried.

- II. **Correspondence** - Memo from Don Van Mersbergen and Darryl VanderHaak declaring their intention to serve as WID director for another term.

III. Old Business - Board nominations/appointments- Don Van Mersbergen, Darryl Vander Haak.

Having submitted their intention in writing to serve as director for another term and having received no other nominations or petitions from qualified electors of the district, the board by unanimous consent does recommend to the Whatcom County Council, the appointment of Darryl Vander Haak and Donald Van Mersbergen to serve a three-year term as director commencing January 1, 2014.

IV. New Business

A. Water Supply Planning for Economic Certainty (Ag District Coalition) update - Bierlink

- Watershed Planning Unit meetings this fall
- Discussion of strategy for farm community

Henry Bierlink updated the board regarding the on-going initiative to create a Joint Administrative Board to function as a one-voice “ag coalition” for county agriculture issues. Phase 1 of this initiative involves creating the organizational structure. An organizational board has been formed with largely farmer representation. Henry will provide some administrative and paralegal service. Phase 2 involves building a coalition of existing and potentially new legal units, including Watershed Improvement Districts, Flood Control Boards, Diking and Drainage Districts, Conservation District, Watershed Planning (county), Salmon Recovery/Shellfish Advisory Boards, as well as other groups with agricultural ties or interests. The desired outcome is for a “Leveraged Ag Voice” in matters that involve agriculture at the local, state and federal levels.

V. Adjournment/Next Meeting

No meeting scheduled for December. Next meeting will be announced after the first of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

John Gillies
WID Coordinator