

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District
Minutes for: February 18, 2020 Meeting, 10 am - Noon
Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Board Attending:

Brad Rader Harman Brar Kevin Te Velde
 Kevin Engelsma Larry Stap

Others Attending:

Randy Honcoop Henry Bierlink George Boggs
 Fred Likkel Steve Banham Meg Harris
 Heather MacKay _____ Mark Sandal _____ Erika Douglas

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

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 19 Minutes
- b. Financial Report – *see financial report*

Ag Water Board *Jan, Feb AWB* **\$3,959.82**
TOTAL - Month **\$3,959.82**

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

II. Administrative

- a. Officer election – Kevin E moved to appoint Larry as President and Brad as VP/Secretary, Kevin TV seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Oath of office – both Kevins were sworn into new 3 year terms
- c. Public Records designee – required by RCW 42.56 – Kevin TV moved to appoint Henry Bierlink as the Public Records designee, Kevin E seconded, motion carried unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management pilot – Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton
 - First mtg 12/16 – data gathering, next steps are to develop a database of current data for each pilot, send an RFP to candidates to summarize that data for each pilot and suggest management solutions for the group to consider. The focus will be on water supply but there will be room for habitat and water quality discussions.
 - Linking this process to the Flood Management work under the FLIP process is a goal advanced by the AWB.
- b. AWB Grant from Ecology - \$150k for 2 years
 - Develop Project Lists – surface to ground and augmentation potential sites
 - Implement 2 conversions, 1 augmentation project
 - Project meeting with Reichhardt and Ebe and AESI - 13th – hoping to fund some of the projects already identified and find new projects that would advance the Drainage Based Management process.
- c. Adjudication meeting – Lummi joined Nooksack in sending a letter of request for a basin-wide general stream adjudication. This makes what we earlier sensed was a low likelihood more likely. Ecology’s point person to explore potential adjudication locations throughout the state met with the AWB February 12th. Opposition to an Adjudication remains the ag position. The AWB Board will review new information and discuss at their March 18th meeting.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Pepin Creek project – Steve Banham introduced “Pepin Lite”. This is a truncated version of the original Pepin Creek reroute plan which would channel Double Ditch into the new channel to the east but not include the Benson Ditch which would continue to drain to the east. The route expected for Double Ditch would be south of the Weg farm. This will lower the costs from upward of \$35m to \$15-16m. It avoids needing to stabilize slopes

south of Main street although the City is planning to work with the WCD to provide technical assistance for property owners who desire to stabilize their slopes.

- b. FLIP project tour – Feb. 3-4 – opportunities seem apparent based on the feedback the group received from the Tour and priority setting meeting. The partners in this discussion are the same ones in the water supply negotiations. Looking at “big picture” results that incorporate both fish, floods, and farmer needs including drainage and water supply are possible.
- c. Ditch maintenance – Fred suggested a meeting with the County road crew next month.
- d. Culvert replacement – the Board reviewed the online WDFW culvert map located at <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/fishpassage/index.html>
Board members were asked to Click on the yellow (partial barrier) or red (full barrier) triangles and a site specific report will pop up. Generating ideas for WID specific projects would be helpful as we prepare our 2020 Project budgets.
- e. Meeting with Cramer Scientific re: fish habitat needs – Larry and Fred noted that learning more about fish and habitat was a valuable experience.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Meg presented the recent water quality numbers. It looks good overall. A few troubling locations remain but it seems progress is being made there as well. The issue of Emergency Closures of the shellfish beds rather than the seasonal closures was discussed.
- b. Reminders: Meg mentioned the E coli scan technology available at the WCD office which has lowered sample costs to \$2/sample. And the Nutrition Management Workshop to be held this Thursday.
- c. DNA project – no clear direction how to advance this project. A few other WIDs had approved budgets for taking some high fecal samples to Exact for DNA analysis. The cost is about \$200/sample. This may help provide source information and will provide the lab more opportunity to truth their techniques.
- d. Portage Bay Shellfish Protection District update – samples during the flooding periods were not clean.
- e. Report on landowner contacts – Larry reported several key landowner visits which led some to improved water quality protection.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.northlyndenwid.com
- b. AWB Newsletter – due in March
- c. Whatcom Conservation District workplan
George Boggs presented for the Whatcom Conservation District. Their Board is in the middle of a 5-year workplan (2017-2022) but desired a community discussion to “proof up” their assumptions and make needed adjustments to the Plan. The WCD is preparing a survey of its constituents and asked if the WID would help gather responses. George altered the Board to the WCD’s desire to establish a base of funding so they would not be as reliant on grant funding. The proposal of \$5/parcel countywide would generate nearly \$500k annually to be used to firm up priority programs that don’t get grant funding and provide matching funds for grant funded programs. This funding plan would generate \$18k from land in the WIDs, \$30k from non-WID parcels in the ag area, and approximately \$450k from urban and rural residential areas. Plans are to present this idea to stakeholders, hold a Public Hearing before the WCD Board in June, and present this request to the County Council in July.

The NLWID expressed concern over the loss of a CD Engineer who has been crucial in preparing and managing EQIP contracts. Fred reported the LWID has asked the AWB board to explore the idea of contracting with the WCD for an Ag Engineer. This would look at options of having the WIDs fund this position or a portion of the position rather than supporting the \$5/parcel proposal. This will be discussed at the March 18th AWB meeting. Larry wondered if the WID parcels might be exempted from the \$5/parcel charge if we took this route instead.

- d. Soil compaction project – Heather presented a potential follow-up study from the aquifer mapping work done by UBC last summer. This would focus on soil compaction and would look at different crops and soil types. The board was amenable to helping to find sampling sites and giving feedback to the research team.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

March 17

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____