

# North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 20, 2017 Meeting, 10am – Noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

### Board Attending:

Brad Rader                       Roger Bajema                       Kevin Te Velde  
 Jeff Bedlington                       Larry Stap

### Others Attending:

Erika Douglas                       Henry Bierlink                       Melissa Erkel  
 Fred Likkel                       Steve Banham                       Charlie McEnna  
 Frank Corey                       Joel Ingram                       Andy Bowler  
 Steve Fox                       Mitch Moorlag                       Aneka Sweeney

x = present                      o = absent with notice                      t = teleconference

The Board appointed Brad as vice-president by consensus. He led the meeting in lieu of Larry's absence.

## I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of April 18 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		\$18,879.10		
Fund Balance                      4/1/2017		\$9,856.61		
Fund Balance                      6/1/2017		\$22,311.95		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$22,311.95
Outstanding bills:				<b>\$6,013.50</b>
Ag Water Board <i>Jan, May, June AWB Admin</i>			<b>\$6,013.50</b>	
<b>End of Month Balance</b>				<b>\$16,298.45</b>
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	24,054	12,027.00	12,027.00	
Projects	9,818	200.00	9,618.00	
Insurance/Adm	1,618	225.86	1,392.14	
	<b>35,490</b>	<b>12,452.86</b>	<b>23,037.14</b>	

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

## II. Administrative

- A. Review Priority Issue and Activity lists

Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
1. Drainage	5 year permit for drainage maintenance...Find the funding for development of the 5 year plan...chase paperwork	Contract with Frank to develop for the NLWID.
	Work on culvert repair/replacement	Keep doing this. Figure out what value culvert replacement has for mitigation.
		Areas for future work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assink south &amp; culverts</li> <li>- Bender south to Badger</li> <li>- Bender north of Pangborn</li> </ul>

		- Culverts under Bender Road
2. Water Quality	Continue our water quality work with Whatcom County Public Works, and Lynden	Tell the story better work to get shellfish beds opened
3. Water Rights	Support the AWB's work in this area.	

### III. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Mitigation work for Bender and Assink Road projects – Brad reported the planting had been done with the cooperation of the LCHS students and NSEA. There may be a bit of follow up work this fall. Brad intends to talk to Heeringa's on the west side of the creek to see if they would be interested in providing more mitigation for future NL projects.
- B. Culvert replacements - <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/fishpassage/> - Melissa reported on the Culvert Replacement Program at WDFW. There is \$1 million in funding through NRCS for projects in the Nooksack drainage. There is a priority rating system that directs funds to areas where fish benefit is most pronounced. Fishtrap Creek and Double Ditch are good candidates but the road ditches in the WID are not. The board discussed the value of replacing culverts as mitigation for ditch cleaning. Joel was open to this but warned that a ratio of the value of replacing culverts to feet of ditch cleaning had not yet been developed as it has for plantings.
- C. Ditch maintenance – Steve, Charlie, and Andy from the County were present to discuss ditch cleaning partnerships. The Board identified three ditch cleaning priority areas and discussed the culverts on Bender Road north of Pangborn. Joel encouraged a multi-location permit for:
  - 1. Assink Road from Stap south to Fishtrap
  - 2. Complete Bender from where project ended last year to Badger
  - 3. Bender Ditch from Krauss Berry Farm to Pangborn.

Potential mitigation sites identified were the Heeringa's side of Fishtrap, Don VM's side of Bender ditch and culvert replacements or eliminations.  
Brad will follow up with the County on the problem culverts on Bender.
- D. 5-year programmatic permit – Frank Corey is available this summer to work on the desired 5-year permit. He felt it would build on the 2010 drainage manual that had been created for the NLWID. He would need some coverage for his time as there were no grants covering this work. Roger moved to approve up to \$3,000 for permit fees and Frank's time this summer/fall, Kevin seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- E. Lynden Projects – Steve Banham reported on the Pepin Creek relocation project. The City has right of way easements from Main Street though the Heusinkveld farm. They intend to do more landowner outreach this summer. The City also plans some ditch maintenance work this fall on Double Ditch and Benson Road ditch.

### IV. Water Quality

- A. Monitoring Results – Erika presented the report which indicated few very high samples over the last months. She agreed that the ditch cleaning work along Assink and Bender seemed to be producing fewer high counts. She is searching for data to help tell the positive story about what has been done to lower counts. Moving away from big guns is just one changing practice. Fred will help her get figures on the number of acres where BMPs have been applied. The issues with BC were also discussed. Letters have been sent and formal discussions scheduled but Erika sensed the best progress was likely at the informal, farmer to farmer level. Lynden was commended for all the educational and cleanup actions they have been taking to address water quality within their boundaries.
- B. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – Erika reported that three units are installed and are being calibrated. There is funding for three more units. The WCD is working on trying to locate one at the border on Double Ditch.

- C. Exact Scientific – source tracking technology - A large scale DNA proposal has been prepared for consideration in the State budget. In the short-term, in order to demonstrate how this technology could be put to use Exact has crafted a proposal to do a pilot project in the South Lynden WID on the Scott Ditch reach between Strandell and Nolte Road. The projected budget for the work we are most interested in is \$18,900. South Lynden approved up to \$9,500 for this work. The BWID approved up to \$5k and the LWID another \$3k. Roger moved to approve \$500 to support this project since the information generated in this project would be applicable to our concerns as well, Kevin seconded, motion carried unanimously.

## V. Water Supply

- A. Olympia Report – the fate of ESSB 5239 (Hirst Fix) is still up in the air. The AWB has been working with Bill and other local partners to have some suggested budget language to be inserted to final budget negotiations should the opportunity present itself. Bill is floating this idea with other groups including the Lummis.

- i. Whatcom Water Action Pilot Program proposal - 2 years - \$150k/yr.

(X) \$300,000 is provided solely to establish the Whatcom Water Action Program (WWAP). With these funds, the department shall retain a qualified consultant to develop a multi-purpose water resource program capable of providing both technical and market analysis of existing water rights, changes of existing water rights, mitigated water rights, and development of new water infrastructure, including but not limited to storage, pipelines, aquifer recharge, and other projects. The program would be designed to meet water resource needs for both instream and out-of-stream needs, and be capable of supporting future water resource agreements. The program will analyze demands, design supply options, and create an exchange service where access to water will be methodical and transparent; including water uses for agriculture, rural residents, municipal supply, and instream flows. The department shall establish a steering committee for the program, which shall include major water resource stakeholders and federally-recognized tribes.

- B. Whatcom Water Supply work group – Henry provided a brief summary of projects this group was working on including:
    - i. Lummi Infrastructure project
    - ii. Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project
    - iii. Ground water Modeling
    - iv. Drought Contingency Plan
    - v. Action Plan
  - C. Water Exchange/Banking – A Pilot Program proposal to the AWB was reviewed.

## VI. Education/Communications

- A. Website - [www.northlyndenwid.com](http://www.northlyndenwid.com)
- B. Water Symposiums – Henry distributed the agenda for Day 1 of the Sept 20-21 “Baker to Bay” symposium. Rich Appel has agreed to present the Ag perspectives on how we view the Ecosystem. A second symposium specific to water supply is being planned for Nov. 1 or 2.

## VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Spring newsletter is out.
- B. AESI instream flow report was presented to Water Supply Committee and will have more discussion at the AWB meeting.
- C. Portage Bay Partnership update (in Executive Session)

## VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

July 18 - likely to be cancelled  
August 15 - likely to be cancelled  
September 19

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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