

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – April 18, 2023, 9 AM

Board Attending:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Stap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Te Velde
<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Engelsma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harman Brar	

Others Attending:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman
<input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia May	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber
<input type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Banham	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Reed

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

Larry called the meeting to order at 9:07.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. March 21 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Brad moved to approve the consent agenda. Kevin T seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Henry provided an update on HB1792. At this point we are just waiting on the governor to sign it.
- b. Board reviewed a draft letter to the Watershed Management Board. Staff is happy with its current state, and the board supports it as well.

3. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. FLIP Team and water storage meetings are ongoing. The next FLIP team meeting is at the end of the month
- b. Fred will be meeting with the county on April 26 to discuss ditch maintenance
- c. Follow-up to the buffer discussion from the previous meeting.
 - i. Fishtrap is the obvious priority in the WID. Double Ditch would be good to get some shade but a full buffer isn't feasible on roadside ditches. Depot/Bender/Benson dry up early in the summer, but Assink continues to flow for most of the summer.
 - ii. Double Ditch would likely be a single shrubby hedgerow – something that hangs over the ditch
 - iii. Frank will look into historical temperature data for Assink Rd to determine if that may be a priority area due to temperature impacts on Fishtrap Creek
 - iv. Winter impacts of roadside hedgerows – Larry mentioned that the hedgerows can create drifts over roadways, and additionally may cause

ditches to fill with snow and create ice dams that lead to flooding as conditions warm

- v. Goal is to now identify parcels in priority areas, and draft a letter to those landowners from the WID encouraging participation
 - 1. Outreach and engagement funding is available in addition to the implementation funding for buffers. The CD may be able to provide some assistance and/or funding on the outreach side
- d. Gavin shared a draft letter to the State Conservation Commission re: their new buffer program, and the board provided feedback.
 - i. Brandy suggested that keeping some metrics about possible implementation may be useful for the letter.
 - ii. Gavin will incorporate the feedback from the board and send the letter to the SCC
- e. Gavin shared the proposed beaver management contract from USDA APHIS Wildlife Services.
 - i. Terms of proposed contract are 80 hours for the year, maximum cost of \$5069.47.
 - ii. Kevin T motioned to approve the contract. Harman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided an update on water quality.
 - i. There have been 2 Fishtrap-focused sampling events since the last WID meeting.
 - ii. March 27 – Visser & Depot had a high count, everything else looked good
 - iii. April 10 – more rain ahead of that one. High counts coming across the border at Double Ditch, impacting counts on Fishtrap. Upper Fishtrap looked good.
 - 1. A few moderately elevated sites on Bender Rd. Larry suggested that a test at the culvert on Pangborn between Bender and Assink could provide more info
- b. County and other partners are working on making contact with the BC government re: high counts on Double Ditch at the border.
 - i. County is drafting a letter to BC partners, and we should see progress soon. The Puget Sound Partnership transboundary caucus is aware of the issue.
- c. Portage Bay numbers are looking good. April 12 testing numbers were excellent

5. Education / Communications

- a. Website – northlyndenwid.com

6. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None

7. Next Meetings

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for June 20th at 9 AM.

Larry adjourned the meeting at 10:43.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____