

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – April 16, 2024

Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Larry Stap Kevin Engelsma Brad Rader	Kevin Te Velde Harmon Brar

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Henry Bierlink	Ag Water Board
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Cynthia May (t)	Whatcom Conservation District
Katie Faber (t)	AESI
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Alan Chapman (t)	Whatcom Conservation District
Chris Elder (t)	Whatcom County Public Works
Dakota Stranik (t)	Whatcom County PDWS

Proceedings

Larry called the meeting to order at 9:01am

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes of March 19 meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial report and voucher in the amount of \$3,557.64 was reviewed.
- d. Brad moved to approve the consent agenda. Kevin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Board signed re-formatted Res. 2024-02.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an adjudication update. The water rights information event went well; nearly 400 attendees. Whatcom County is providing additional funding to AWB for more water rights office hours in May and June.
 - i. Question from board member about comments submitted about the draft claims form. Gavin noted that ECY has passed on the comments and the claims form to the AG office; haven't heard anything new since.

- ii. Jay noted that ECY has said that they will send a postcard sometime this summer to the approximately 30,000 they have identified as participating in the adjudication as pre-information to let people know that the summons will be coming.
- b. Chris Elder shared a draft report on rezoning rural study areas in Whatcom County. A number of advisory committees have recommended rezoning those areas to Ag-20. How could we do that in a voluntary method that would compensate landowners for the loss of land value? What would that compensation look like, and how does water access fit into the puzzle?
 - i. Gavin will share Chris' draft report with the board via email.

4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided a brief FLIP update. Frustrations about timeline seem to have been heard by the county, and things are moving in a positive direction.
- b. Gavin shared the draft letter about the new buffer program. Goal is to send the letter out to priority landowners later this month.
 - i. Gavin will send the letter to the board via email along with the draft flier being developed by Whatcom CD staff.

5. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided a WQ update. Again had some high counts up at the border on Apr 9th. Those counts were submitted to British Columbia. Still some concern, but significantly better than last year.
 - i. Met with BC reps last week and got an update on follow-up work that they have been doing, including extensive testing upstream of the border on Bertrand, Pepin, and Fishtrap Creeks. Overall Fishtrap mainstem has looked good at the most downstream site.

6. Other

- a. Gavin provided OPMA training to Larry and Kevin.

7. Next Meeting

- a. Next regularly scheduled meetings are on May 21 and June 18.
Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____



6-18-24