

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – October 17, 2023, 9 AM

Board Attending:

Larry Stap Brad Rader Kevin Te Velde
 Kevin Engelsma Harman Brar

Others Attending:

Gavin Willis Henry Bierlink Fred Likkel
 Cynthia May Jay Chennault Katie Faber
 Jon Hutchings Bill Clarke Alan Chapman
 Frank Corey Dillon Honcoop Brandy Reed

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

Larry Stap called the meeting to order at 9:14.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. September 19 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Harman moved to approve the consent agenda. Brad seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Term of office is expiring for Harman.
 - i. Brad moved to renominate Harman. Harman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Discussion of the budget, including AWB budget request.
 - i. Brad moved to approve the AWB budget request and set additional budget of \$2880 for operation expenses and \$5070 for projects. Harman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Resolution 2023-01 – Setting the 2024 Assessment Rate
 - i. Brad moved to approve Resolution 2023-01 setting the assessment rate at \$10.00 per acre. Harman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Resolution 2023-02 – Establishing the 2024 Assessment Roll
 - i. Assessment Roll was reviewed.
 - ii. Brad moved to approve Resolution 2023-02 and establish the assessment roll for 2024. Harman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Adjudication update – Bill shared that ECY has stated that they remain motivated to “clean up paperwork of water rights in WRIA 1” regardless of settlement process

- b. Ramsey and Bill have checked in with tribal attorneys about their feelings on the federal settlement process. It was noted that WRIA 1 has very little federal agency presence compared to other basins in the state.
- c. Discussion of potential AWB streamflow restoration grant application for surface-to-groundwater conversions. The board would like to see exploration of all alternative ideas as well.

4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided an update on FLIP work. The county has continued to model different ways they might manage the flow split.
- b. Fred provided an update on issues with the CREP program.
 - i. 800 acres were cancelled in CREP in Whatcom County, and another 300 acres are being reviewed and will likely be cancelled as well.
 - ii. Right now one potential solution being investigated is purchasing easements rather than doing contracts, and having the WID hold the easement and manage maintenance of the drainage system.
- c. Ditch maintenance was discussed. It seems that the county only cleared about half of the Assink Rd ditch. Fred will follow up.
 - i. Ditch mowing has been looking good in the WID this year.
- d. Beaver management was discussed. The trapper has been working on Fishtrap south of Pangborn. Going into the winter season he will likely have more availability to deal with problem beavers.
- e. Jon shared an update on the Pepin Creek Project. The City of Lynden is trying to get funding to do the work. There would be definite habitat benefits, but it is unclear if that is enough to drive funding.

5. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided an update on water quality. Upper stretches of Pepin and Fishtrap haven't had many samples taken due to dry and/or stagnant conditions. Moderate counts through the city of Lynden and downstream.
 - i. Oct 2 sampling event seemed to show a first flush in upper Fishtrap. Pepin looking fairly good at the moment; monitoring there will be very intensive over the next few weeks, including north of the border.

6. Education / Communications

- a. Website – northlyndenwid.com
 - i. Possible website update to simplify AWB staff workflow and ensure compliance with state requirements. Gavin will bring more info to the next meeting.
- b. Ag Advisory Committee for the county is starting to meet again. 3 ag producer vacancies, and no current representation from livestock or dairy producers.
- c. WFF Farmer Rally is on November 8 at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds. They will be hosting an educational event from 2-4 pm before the rally about how farmers can prepare for the adjudication.

7. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None

8. Next Meetings

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov 21st at 9 AM.
- b. The November meeting will also serve as the board of equalization.

Larry Stap adjourned the meeting at 10:36.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____