

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 18, 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 Meg Harris
 Fred Likkel Aneka Sweeney Randy Honcoop
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of February 21 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		\$2,188.90		
Fund Balance 3/1/2017		\$9,872.21		
Fund Balance 4/1/2017		\$9,856.61		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$9,856.61
Outstanding bills:				\$4,234.86
Ag Water Board <i>March, April AWB Admin</i>			\$4,009.00	
Ag Water Board <i>website fees</i>			\$225.86	
End of Month Balance				\$5,621.75
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	24,054	7,818.00	16,236.00	
Projects	9,818	200.00	9,618.00	
Insurance/Adm	1,618	225.86	1,392.14	
	35,490	8,243.86	27,246.14	

Henry explained the \$225 website charge was an annual fee for hosting the www.northlyndenwid.com site. Brad moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Kevin seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- A. Review and approve Priority Issue and Activity lists

Accomplishments	Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
Smallest WID	1. Drainage	5 year permit for drainage maintenance...Find the funding for development of the 5 year plan...chase paperwork	Contact Frank about developing for the NLWID. Have a list of projects by the June meeting.
Spray ditches annually for Reed Canary Grass		Work on culvert repair/replacement	Keep doing this. Figure out what value culvert replacement has for mitigation.

Water quality testing with county...PIC program...very intense	2. Water Quality	Continue our water quality work with Whatcom County Public Works, and Lynden	
Farmers in area substantiated by monitoring indicating Canada issues			
City of Lynden working on getting septic systems connected and/or addressed			
Ditch maintenance on local ditches...difference in water quality sampling improvement			Areas for future work: - Assink culvert - Pangborn ditch - Bender culvert
Contacts with neighbors regarding practices			
	3. Water Rights	Support the AWB's work in this area.	
	4. Flood Management		

The issues and priorities developed at the All WID Planning meeting were reviewed and amended.

III. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Mitigation work for Bender and Assink Road projects – project starts Wednesday. LCHS students are doing the planting. NSEA supplying the plants. It was not clear what the cost would be.
- B. Culvert replacements - <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/fishpassage/> - Larry distributed a contact for the NRCS culvert costshare program. High priority fish blockages are the target for these funds.
- C. Ditch maintenance – several sites noted as needing work. Fred will contact Frank to see how much he could do to help.

IV. Water Quality

- A. Monitoring Results – lots of good samples but a two sampling days had high counts. The contributions from Canada were clearly noted. There was discussion about how to motivate more interest in dealing with these issues in BC. A media campaign to “shame” pollution sites was suggested. Randy suggested contacting the Pacific Ag Show to see if there could be some presentations to Canadian farmers about the impacts water quality is having on WA State farmers. Brad will contact Raj Bathe.
- B. Data Analysis – Meg described her new position at the WCD. She is gathering all the water quality monitoring data into one map and keeping it current. There will also be more analysis of the data.
- C. ZAP units – one has been approved on the Fishtrap at the LCHS salmon site. Another at the Lynden intake on the River. The site at the PUD has not yet been calibrated to have confidence in the data.
- D. Exact Scientific – source tracking technology – Rep. Buys is trying to find some State money to support the \$150k need for developing samples to be used to calibrate the testing equipment.
- E. CAFO Permit – a few are likely to apply for it but likely await the outcome of the appeals that are due to be decided by December.
- F. Portage Bay Partnership report – debate over Experts continues. Some progress on the horizon.

- G. Report on landowner contacts – 6 landowners have been individually contacted in the last months.
- H. Larry suggested that the Board go on record indicating their displeasure with ReSources’ decision to be part of the CAFO appeal and subsequent articles in the local press regarding their reasons for continuing to pressure dairies to do more. The board agreed that they would like to encourage the Laurel WID to reassess the partnership they have developed with the Ten Mile Clean Water Project which has been facilitated by RESources.
- I. Nitrates – Fred noted it was probable that he would be getting substantial support to do more testing and analysis to better understand the nature of the nitrate issues in the County.

I. Water Supply– Henry reviewed current actions including:

- A. Olympia Report – fate of ESSB 5239 – tied up in budget negotiations. The Tribes remain opposed and the Governor has promised he would not sign what they oppose. Several water attorneys are working together to develop a compromise that could gain support. AWB and Family Farmers are sending support letters for 5239.
- B. Whatcom Water Supply work group – A list indicating the membership and goals of this organization was distributed. Issues being addressed and/or managed by this group include:
 - Lummi Infrastructure project
 - Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project
 - Ground water Modeling
 - Drought Contingency Plan
 - WWSWG Action Plan
- C. Water Bank application – This application is nearly ready to submit to the last review round. It would support work to review water rights and prepare several transfers making use of a water bank.

V. Education/Communications

- A. Website - www.northlyndenwid.com

VI. Ag Water Board

- A. Legal – Bill Clarke continues to provide legal services and education support in Olympia on a monthly retainer.
- B. AESI instream flow report – Chuck Lindsay’s team has been hired to provide a clearer understanding of how to look at the In-Stream Flow settings on the River and tributaries. They are presenting preliminary results to the Water Supply committee today and will have a final report by mid-May.
- C. Strategy review – the list of strategies and actions for the AWB that was generated at the Planning Workshop was distributed. Input should be provided to Roger, the AWB representative from the WID.

Strategy	Lead
<i>Communication/Outreach</i>	
Preserving the “one voice” outreach...continue work with key partners...work together to defend agriculture and get the word out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom Family Farmers – Fred, specific partners – e.g. public affairs people in organizations • Story specific for information • Brad & Rich
Communication and community outreach...message in positive way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
Habitat for species...telling people what farmers are doing to benefit habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<i>Legal</i>	

Continue to identify legal access to water supply...acquiring, getting water where it needs to go	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Henry, Chuck, Greg
Work together on tribal negotiations on water quality and supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation Team, Fred, Greg • Needs expanded and probably a different team as supply is addressed
Legal challenges, and holding them off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry
Quality	
Work together on funding for and implementation of DNA testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David – N3, Landon, Kent,
Water quality projects and how it effects our industry...improving and communicating xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred, • See above
Drainage	
Get permits faster and eliminate some of the paper work – 5 year Programmatic Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karin, Frank, Joel, Henry, Fred
Supply/Access	
Water quantity projects and ability to have water long term for future generations...mitigation banking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry
Organizational/Administrative	
Tracking legislation, rule making, agendas, and impacts at County, State, Federal levels...agriculture representation on committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry, Bill, Fred, partner individuals
Utilize the influence system of collective WIDs including messengers and skills development (training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom Family Farmers
Organize the listing of committees and groups to get agriculture representation on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry, Fred and members

VII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:05. Next meeting is May 16 provided a quorum can be generated. Farmers will likely be pressed for fieldwork at that time.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____