

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 17, 2017 Meeting, 10am – Noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

Brad Rader Roger Bajema Kevin Te Velde
 Jeff Bedlington Larry Stap _____

Others:

Erika Douglas Henry Bierlink Kasey Cykler
 Fred Likkel _____ Mark Sandal _____ Monette Boswell
_____ Heather MacKay _____ Darryl Vander Haak _____ Jeff Littlejohn
_____ Corina Cheever _____ Mitch Moorlag Aneka Sweeney
 Steve Jilk Joel Ingram _____ David Haggith

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of November 15 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		\$0.00		
Fund Balance 12/1/2016		\$11,389.67		
Fund Balance 1/1/2017		\$11,526.61		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$11,526.61
Outstanding bills:				\$3,658.90
Ag Water Board <i>Jan AWB Admin</i>			\$2,004.50	
Ag Water Board <i>Dec AWB Admin</i>			\$1,654.40	
End of Month Balance				\$7,867.71
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	24,054	2,004.50	22,049.50	
Projects	9,818		9,818.00	
Insurance/Adm	1,618		1,618.00	
	35,490	2,004.50	33,485.50	

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

II. Old Business

A. Ag Water Board report

- Legal
 - Lummi Settlement Update – Larry summarized the work leading towards the Portage Bay Partnership Agreement and answered questions about what it contained and what it may mean for other farmers. It is a Phased agreement with deadlines included. It builds on a growing relationship between Lummi and the dairy farmers that negotiated the agreement. The funds provided and being sought are targeted for 1) shellfish harvester relief, 2) enhancement of shellfish beds, and 3) public awareness.

IV. New Business

A. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Mitigation work for Bender and Assink Road projects – Brad has been in contact with Harlan at LCHS who believes he can supply a crew to plant. Likely in March or April. Aneka is checking on finding sources of funds to pay for the plants.
- Ditch maintenance – discussions with WDFW. Joel encouraged work towards completing an application for a 5-year Programmatic Drainage Permit. He noted that no mitigation is required for artificial channel maintenance but whenever fish presence is disturbed in a modified or natural channel mitigation and maintenance will be required. Dredging these channels will always require mitigation and sometimes mowing and spraying would too if it occurs when the flows are minimal and DO is affected. Mitigation is often tree planting but can also be culvert replacement, rerouting, and sediment control. He stressed the need to plan and budget for maintenance of mitigation projects as well.
- Programmatic Drainage Permits - WCD Grant application was not approved. A discussion with the Conservation District and Frank Corey is needed to see how a plan for identifying what ditches need attention, who is responsible for them, what permits are needed, and when work should occur. Fred will check with the CD about what it would cost the WID to obtain a bit of Frank's time.
- The purpose and need for a Comprehensive Plan was discussed. The Board agreed that pulling all the information together was a needed exercise. It is important to get the information together to obtain the 5 year Programmable Permits so drainage can systematically occur. How to do that and how much energy and funding should be applied to this was less clear. Larry suggested that we must have most of this information in our original plan and the work provided in the Ag Watershed Project. Joel will evaluate the material and suggest how to move this information into an Agreement stage.
- Aneka noted a Funding for Fish Friendly Culvert Workshop on February 25th. 6-8 pm at the Lynden Library. Board members were encouraged to learn about how the WID might assist landowners with these projects.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results - Erica distributed the latest results. Most numbers were good but there were isolated areas of concern. There are occasional high spikes coming across the border. Erica noted that the County, State, and WID had sent letters of concern to BC. There is a group monitoring the streams in BC and an International Joint Task Force is being reformed to address this concern. A cross border meeting of farmers was suggested. Brad also alerted the Board to the Sumas WID plan to host a dairy lunch at Bob's in Sumas and have the maps and monitoring results displayed.
- Marine results – Fred reported the Portage bay numbers have been generally good. The May, 2014 high number has dropped of the running average which helps.
- Monitoring site changes – Erica has been asked about dropping sites where no issues have been detected. There are pluses and minuses to this as good samples allow us to tell a good story. But there may be time when the resources would be better used in some new sites.
- ZAP machines are nearing installation on the River at Lynden's intake and on Fishtrap at the Kok Road bridge. Calibrations on the existing ZAP machine at the PUD's Ferndale intake are a work in progress.
- Report on landowner contacts - Fred contacted a landowner after the late November spikes. He is also working with landowner on Visser Road to track down potential unknown inputs.

C. Water Quantity

- Water Supply Strategy draft - Henry reviewed a draft statement of goals and objectives that reflected the work that has been done over the years. The penalty to George Sandhu calls attention to the need to have tools developed and working that farmers in his situation can use to become legal in their water use. The draft is to invite comments and edits for consideration by the Ag Water Board.
- The potential for the Portage Bay Partnership to help bridge differences between the Tribes and farmers was discussed. A suggestion to have the Partnership travel to Olympia in February to have discussions like this was made.

D. Education

- Website www.northlyndenwid.com
- WSU Water Workshop sponsor request – Brad moved to sponsor the event with \$100, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously. Brad suggested that Lummi be sure to be invited to this as well.
- Aneka noted that Darryl had given a very good overview of the NLWID and its issues at the CD Speaker Series in December.
- Aneka also altered the dairy members to a February 16th Speaker Series co-sponsored by the Drayton WID. It will feature Shabtai Bittman of Ag Canada who is a recognized expert on local forages.

E. Other Items from Commissioners

- Larry wanted to commend the County for their prompt help on removing the ice dam in west Double Ditch last week. He noticed the water was backing up into Leon's heifer barn and contacted the County. It was solved within hours.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

February 21

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____