

# North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: September 20, 2016 Meeting, 10am – Noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

<u>  x  </u> Brad Rader	<u>      </u> Roger Bajema	<u>  x  </u> Don Van Mersbergen
<u>  x  </u> Darryl Vander Haak	<u>  x  </u> Larry Stap	<u>      </u> Aneka Sweeney
<u>  x  </u> Erika Douglas	<u>  x  </u> Henry Bierlink	<u>      </u> John Gillies
<u>  x  </u> Fred Likkel	<u>      </u> Mark Sandal	<u>      </u> Monette Boswell
<u>      </u> Heather MacKay	<u>      </u> Casey Lankhaar	<u>      </u> Jeff Littlejohn
<u>  x  </u> Corina Cheever	<u>  x  </u> Mitch Moorlag	<u>      </u>

x = present                      o = absent with notice

### I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of June 21 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1	\$0.00			\$0.00
2016 Assessments Received	\$13,394.98			
Fund Balance @ 8/1/2016		\$11,346.11		
Fund Balance @ 9/1/2016		\$11,384.29		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$11,384.29
Outstanding bills:				\$5,540.51
Ag Water Board	<i>July - Aug Contract</i>		\$2,118.11	
Ag Water Board	<i>Sept Contract, HPA fee</i>		\$1,804.40	
Enduris	<i>Insurance</i>		\$1,618.00	
<b>End of Month Balance</b>				<b>\$5,843.78</b>

	<u>2016 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	19,888	10,186.91	9,701.09
Projects	1,489	150.00	1,339.00
Adm/Insurance	2,240	2,258.00	-18.00
	<b>23,617</b>	<b>12,594.91</b>	<b>11,022.09</b>

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

### II. Old Business

#### A. Ag Water Board report

- 2017 Workplan and Budget – the 2017 Projected AWB Budget was reviewed and discussed. The budget projects to go up \$49k to address increased legal expenses surrounding settlement negotiations and the establishment of a miscellaneous fund to fund potential requests for support.
- Legal
  - Lummi Settlement Update – an update of current status was provided.
- AWB Issues Summary – for County Council education – a draft was circulated and Board members were asked for comments.
- Fred noted that the Save Family Farmers group had made substantial waves in challenging the What’s Upstream efforts.

### III. New Business

#### A. Administrative

- Budget planning for 2017 – A Role will be adopted in October. There was substantial discussion over raising the assessment rates for 2017. With the increased \$6,000 need from AWB the project budget would be in the negative for 2017. The potential need to pay for mitigation would also be unfunded. Brad moved to raise the 2017 assessment rate to \$6/acre for 2017, Darryl seconded, motion carried with a majority vote. A draft letter to the membership explaining the need for the increase will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- Nominations – Don & Darryl both were reluctant to be renominated. Board members will contact other potential candidates including Mitch, Jeff, Kevin E, Kevin TV, Derek DK, and Len H.
- Legal Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 12, 19, 26

#### **DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE** – *all Watershed Improvement Districts*

*Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:*

*1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – one position in Bertrand, two in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o'clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.*

*2) Inspect the 2017 Assessment Role and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in the Bertrand will be heard at 2pm, November 1st, for Sumas at 1pm, November 8<sup>th</sup>, for South Lynden at 3pm, November 8<sup>th</sup>, for Laurel at 10am, November 14<sup>th</sup>, for North Lynden at 10am, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and for Drayton at 3pm, November 15<sup>th</sup>, all at the District's office. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 11<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts' offices located at 1796 Front Street, Lynden.*

#### B. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Ditch maintenance – the spray permits were in place and an HPA for the Assink and Bender ditches was approved. The County is still trying to get the work done this year. Our mitigation requirement requires us to clear the area in early 2017 and have it planted by fall, 2017. There was concern over why the WID needed to assess landowners for paying mitigation costs when that is not really benefiting the landowners; only fish. Corina suggested some avenues to explore for grant funding help. Larry is talking with NSEA about options. Fred and Henry will keep looking for partners and grants. Brad suggested inviting Joel in January for a discussion over the funding of mitigation. The WID's project budget will be a last resort.
- Programmatic Drainage Permits - WCD Grant application would create a staff position to recruit and implement priority conservation projects targeting Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding. This project will provide the WID leaders and individual landowners a dedicated and experienced coordinator to provide the technical assistance needed to get more conservation on the ground.

#### C. Water Quality

- Erika walked the Board through the recent water quality samples. There were some spikes in September. She felt there was a septic odor on one of the highest samples. They routinely walk upstream looking for sources when there is a visual or odor at the collection site. She is also doing some sediment sampling but the \$75 cost is significantly greater than the \$22 water column sample cost. She will sample the sediments prior to ditch cleaning. Septics are 90% in compliance in the Fishtrap now.
- An effort to locate 5 more ZAP units is occurring. They need locations that have security, access and electricity. The efforts are primarily focused in the Fishtrap although there may be one at the Guide Bridge on the Nooksack.

- Exact Scientific – source tracking technology using DNA is becoming more realistic. Fred and some farmers have been meeting with Kent Oostra to explore how this might be used and funded.
- D. Water Quantity – an explanatory diagram outlining the numerous water policy groups was distributed.
- Whatcom Water Supply Coalition goals, objectives, and actions were provided. This group is working on shared legal expenses, Review of Water Rights and Needs for each WID, and development of a Water Bank – part of the BOR and the Birch Bay Water District grant
  - The County announced the WIDs would be invited to be part of the Water Policy Management Team albeit in a not voting capacity.
- E. Education
- WCD Speaker Series proposal – Corrina outlined a proposed schedule of Speaker Series and invited the WID to be a co-sponsor. Brad moved approval of \$100 for sponsorship, Darryl seconded, motion carried unanimously.
  - AWB/WID Newsletter – Larry provided a short summary of the WID’s recent activities.
  - Website [www.northlyndenwid.com](http://www.northlyndenwid.com)
- F. Comments on Conservation District 2017 Workplan - The Board was encouraged to provide feedback to the WCD.

#### **IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting**

October 18

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

**Approved by** \_\_\_\_\_