

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: September 19, 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 Randy Honcoop
 Fred Likkel Mark Sandal Monette Boswell
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of June 20 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		\$19,843.37		
Fund Balance 6/1/2017		\$22,311.95		
Fund Balance 8/1/2017		\$17,262.72		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$17,262.72
Outstanding bills:				\$7,267.87
Ag Water Board <i>July, Aug AWB Admin</i>			\$4,009.00	
All Season Spraying <i>ditch maintenance</i>			\$1,593.87	
Enduris <i>Insurance premium</i>			\$1,665.00	
End of Month Balance				\$9,994.85

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	24,054	16,036.00	8,018.00
Projects	9,818	1,793.87	8,024.13
Insurance/Adm	1,618	1,890.86	-272.86
	35,490	19,720.73	15,769.27

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

II. Administrative

- A. Review Priority Issue and Activity lists

Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
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. Develop a list of projects this fall.
	Work on culvert repair/replacement	Keep doing this. Figure out what value culvert replacement has for mitigation.
		Areas for future work: - Assink culvert - Pangborn ditch – Bedlington field Bender culvert

2. Water Quality	Continue our water quality work with Whatcom County Public Works, and Lynden	In progress
3. Water Rights	Support the AWB's work in this area.	In progress

B. 2018 Workplan & Budget

- a. Budget planning for 2018 – assessment rates – AWB has presented a draft budget request similar to 2017. The WID needs to assess its project needs and determine if a change in WID assessment rate is needed. A decision needs to be made at the October Board meeting. The NLWID's project budget is \$9,818. Anticipated expenses in 2018 are \$1,600 for spraying. Mitigation costs are not yet clear.
- b. Nominations – Roger – Kevin moved to nominate Roger for another three-year term, Brad seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- c. Legal Notice - must be published in Lynden Tribune October 18, 25, November 1

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, one 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 2018 Assessment Roll 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 13th, for Sumas at 1pm, November 14th, for South Lynden at 3pm, November 14th, for Laurel at 10am, November 13th, for North Lynden at 10am, November 21st, and for Drayton at 3pm, November 21st, all at the District's office. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 18th to November 11th.

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

III. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Cleaning and Mitigation for Bender and Assink Road projects – Brad has been able to get great assistance and support for NSEA and Lynden Christian students. The opportunity to restore Fishtrap has been welcomed.
- B. Ditch maintenance – Lynden sprayed the Benson ditch. Our spray program has been completed for 2017.
- C. 5-year programmatic permit – Frank Corey has hopes of being able to work on the NL application in early 2018. The board intends to have projects identified this fall.

IV. Water Quality

- A. Monitoring Results – Erika presented results that were encouraging. We are not yet reaching water quality targets but “the decline is significant” and “we have only a little way to go”. Roger suggested that a chart that demonstrated the progress in reducing fecal counts. Erika offered to produce a “progress chart”. The City of Lynden has established a protocol for following up on any high counts and have been aggressive about following up. Erika was asked about the future of funding for Fishtrap testing. She felt the County would be prone to keep the Fishtrap program going while possibly dropping some sites where we are not learning much and switching to others. Fred reported that they Portage Bay numbers were in line for a reopening of shellfish beds. More positive numbers will be the case for trusting that the problems have been taken care of.
- B. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – a station is located at the LC fish hatchery.
- C. South Lynden source tracking project – delayed, will be in place Aug –November.
- D. N – Study – Fred noted that WFF and the DPC helped to fund a N-study locally. The results demonstrate the improving N numbers in our soils. A Press Release is forthcoming.

V. Water Supply

- A. Olympia Report – Hirst and funding for water projects – Olympia is stalemated. There is potential for a \$450k grant to the County to facilitate water discussions and help develop more management tools in the yet to be passed Capital Budget.
- B. Water Supply Work Group report – Henry noted that the Water Working Group was overseeing the following projects:
 - i. Drought Contingency planning
 - ii. Infrastructure evaluation
 - iii. Renewed push for negotiations leading to binding agreements

VI. Education/Communications

- A. Website - www.northlyndenwid.com
- B. Water Symposiums – Sept 20-21, Nov. 1. – Henry encouraged WID members to attend these educational opportunities. The September 20th program is of particular interest as both Rich Appel and Brad Rader will be presenting for agriculture. The November 1st program will focus exclusively on water supply issues.
- C. WCD Speaker Series – The WCD provided a list of topics. The AWB is helping to sponsor these talks.
- D. WFF Farmer Rally – Fred and Brad provided information on a November 2nd Farmer Rally
- E. NLWID report – board members wondered if we should have a separate NL newsletter along with the AWB newsletter. They sensed that few landowners understood that the WID is how the drainage improvements of the past few years have been accomplished. Henry was asked to develop a current email list of NL landowners and start work on an emailed report with pictures of drainage improvements and a chart of where the NLWID assessments go.

VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Winter newsletter – we will go to a summer/winter newsletter as WFF is planning a spring/fall newsletter.
- B. Water Rights letter and future workshop – the potential of increased water right enforcement pointed towards the need to better educate farmers on their legal options. A letter was emailed to all farmers in July. A workshop in late winter remains a possibility but with few enforcement actions this summer it may not be an urgent need.
- C. CAO and impervious surface update – Farm Bureau has led this effort. Consensus is that both issues are being resolved in an acceptable manner.
- D. County water program funding update – Henry noted that the County was leaning towards establishing a storm water utility district in the Lake Whatcom area which would take some financial pressure off the Flood Fund.
- E. Portage Bay Partnership update – Fred expressed hope that the difficulties in making progress were only hurdles in the long process of building relationships that provide both parties and opportunity to communicate.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

October 17

November 21

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____