

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: September 21, 2021 Meeting, 9 am

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 823 1272 5134 Passcode: 716228

Board Attending:

 t Brad Rader x Harman Brar x Kevin Te Velde
 x Kevin Engelsma x Larry Stap

Others Attending:

 t Angela Gelfer x Henry Bierlink x Jay Chennault
 x Fred Likkel t Bill Clarke t Meg Harris
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference p = proxy

Larry called the meeting to order at 9:04.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of June 15 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

Voucher #	Payee	Purpose	Amount
NL0921	Ag Water Board	Sept, Oct. AWB	\$5,041.04
NL0921	Reichhardt & Ebe	Gill drainage	\$311.30
NL0921	Enduris	self insurance	\$1,522.00
		TOTAL VOUCHER	\$6,874.34

Questions about our process for approving payment of the Gill drainage invoice. It was not clear we had formally approved applying the up to \$2k drainage help to this project. Henry will make it clear to Dale that the Gills should not assume continued payment by the WID unless the work applies to a number of landowners. Brad moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Kevin TV seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. AWB Water Supply issues - Bill
 - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report indicates parties are not “ripe”, suggests a “solutions table”
 - Adjudication – seems hard to stop, exploring ways to mitigate the damage
 - Legal preparation
 1. Executive sessions for WID Boards – pending litigation – at Oct mtg.
 2. Working with private attorneys to find the most effective structure to help all farmers with water right concerns.
 3. Standing in adjudication – have WIDs seek interest in a water right
- b. AESI contract – Jay
 - Water right list – AESI has prepared a list of water rights in the North Lynden WID and is working on merging this list with the current parcel layer so that the Board will be able to see the current owner of the water right. There are 91 groundwater rights and 5 surface rights. Goal is to ensure that all rights are in use and fully prepared for adjudication. We will examine the rights where use is not as clear or use is minimal as potential candidates for acquisition, transfers, leases, etc. Reconciling the Ecology database and County Parcel layer is a current challenge AESI is working through. Larry wondered if rights could be leased to the WID so that the WID could defend them. This is another potential way the WID could help its landowners and defend ag water rights.
 - Request for infrastructure projects – \$20m targeted to infrastructure in Whatcom, other federal funds are flowing through grant programs like those under the Bureau

of Reclamation. AESI prepared a spreadsheet describing the ideas for projects that have been considered in the past 30 years. The board was asked to review them and add new ideas that might be advanced. A rough budget was applied for each project.

- c. AWB Budgeting – the initial 2022 AWB budget will be drafted next week for the WIDs to consider in October. Investing into the legal work needed to protect all ag water rights is needed but not yet fully understood. Getting an idea of what may be an acceptable range for the AWB legal work was discussed.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Lynden Stormwater Interlocal Agreement – the final draft contract is between Lynden and the two WIDs (Bertrand and North Lynden). Kevin TV moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement, Kevin E seconded, motion carried unanimously. Fred noted there is ongoing conversation with the Willamette Partnership about what they could contribute to advance planning under this Interlocal.
- b. [Abbotsford stormwater](#) – the board looked at the invitation to comment but did not see a need to do so.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Meg explained the recent data. Lynden City has had some issues but are cooperating on identifying the sources. There was extensive stormwater sampling after the recent 2” rain event. Results are not yet known.
- b. DNA project – Avian project – Kent presented the results at the South Lynden WID Tuesday. Fred reported that there is a sense that we are making progress on isolating sources.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – best news is that data is suggesting a rainfall based closure rather than a calendar closure and that DOH is beginning to consider this.
- a. PIC Program – Meg noted that there was a vigorous fall outreach strategy geared more to small farms and rural residents.

V. Education/Communications

- a. www.northlyndenwid.com
- b. WCD News – Meg reported the crew had a visit to the newly installed Duffner tidegate and there were hopes that a new Executive Director would be identified this fall.

VI. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Beaver trapping – Larry passed along a request from the Lenssens to address the beaver issues on Fishtrap between Pangborn and Badger. Kevin E moved to approve up to \$1,000 to remove beaver from the area, Kevin TV seconded, motion carried unanimously.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50. Next meeting is October 19.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____