

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – June 20, 2023, 9 AM

Board Attending:

Larry Stap Brad Rader Kevin Te Velde
 Kevin Engelsma Harman Brar

Others Attending:

Gavin Willis Henry Bierlink _____ Alan Chapman
_____ Cynthia May _____ Jay Chennault Katie Faber
 Fred Likkel _____ Bill Clarke _____ David Haggith
 Frank Corey _____ Steve Banham _____ Brandy Reed

x – present o – absent with notice t – teleconference p – proxy

Kevin Te Velde called the meeting to order at 9:12.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. April 18 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Harmon moved to approve the consent agenda. Brad seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Henry provided an update on the Local Government Caucus of the WMB. Following a request from ag, the PUD is now the chair of the committee (position was previously held by the county). The caucus has agreed to allow the AWB to be a full participant as an ex-officio member of the committee. AWB has requested full membership in the WMB; that request is still pending.
- b. ECY has reported that the adjudication is not likely to be filed before early 2024. That may put some of the state funding for the WMB at risk, since the \$350k/year for local work is not available until after the adjudication has been filed.

3. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided an update on FLIP work. The county is modeling potential options for floodwater management. The transboundary work group has finally met, but hasn't done anything of consequence yet.
- b. Buffer program update from Frank
 - i. Language in the SCC buffer program funding proviso states that landowners must be fully compensated for land taken out of production.
 - ii. There is the potential for the WID to hold easements to maintain the buffers. It seems that the WID is the agency best suited for maintenance of buffer areas since they have functionality of working lands as a priority, and are likely more responsive than other agencies.

- iii. The parcel list from priority areas was reviewed for accuracy.
- iv. The letter to landowners about the program was reviewed. Harmon motioned to send the letter to landowners in key areas. Brad seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Ditch maintenance was discussed. The county has promised to clean out Assink Rd north of Fishtrap in Aug/Sep.
 - i. Kevin T noted that some cleaning had been done on Bender Rd. Fred suggested that the county may have cleaned out the incorrect area.

4. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided an update on water quality via email.
- b. Fred provided an update on Pepin Creek/Double Ditch PR work re: contamination coming across the border.
 - i. The WID and WFF sent a letter to the WA Governor and the BC Premier urging action on the issue. It has seen significant press coverage in major media outlets in BC and Washington.
 - ii. Noted that Lummi Nation did not provide any comment on the issue when requested by CBC. Farmers are the leaders on water quality right now.
- c. Fred provided an update on Portage Bay. Modeling shows that discharge from the Nooksack mainstem is diluted to between 3 and 20% by the time it reaches Portage Bay.
 - i. Fecal coliform numbers at Portage Bay are at an all-time low right now, but there is concern about high counts coming across the border impacting those counts.

5. Education / Communications

- a. Website – northlyndenwid.com

6. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None

7. Next Meetings

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for Sep 19th at 9 AM.

Kevin Te Velde adjourned the meeting at 9:58.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____