

# North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: January 18, 2022 Meeting, 9 am

Videoconference – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82358850320?pwd=V0NoKzc0TFMvUjROMUZkRE5pbGirdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 5885 0320 Passcode: 688632

### Board Attending:

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

### Others Attending:

Randy Honcoop                       x Henry Bierlink                       t Jay Chennault  
 x Fred Likkel                       Steve Banham                       t Katie Faber

*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 November 16 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

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

## II. Administrative

- a. Oath of Office – Larry and Brad took the oath of office.
- b. Election of Officers – Brad moved keeping the officers the same in 2022, Kevin TV seconded, motion carried unanimously. Larry as President, Kevin TV as vice, and Brad as AWB representative.
- c. Public Records, Open Public Meetings review – Bill sent a memo outlining areas for WID members to be well aware of so that we remain in full compliance with state laws.

## III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Solutions Table
  - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating an early 2022 start
  - Potential proviso supporting federal involvement in water mgt. – AWB team is working with Legislators and partners to advance this idea in both the Legislature and at the Solutions Table.
- b. Project List
  - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application is being prepared. It was noted that several surface rights that we had identified earlier as potential candidates for surface to ground transfers were not on the current list. Henry will make these lists consistent.
- c. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - Reviewed the surface water right list (91). Intend to address groundwater rights (182) in upcoming meetings. Placing all rights in one of three categories:
    - Clearly will be defended
    - Likely defended but nudge needed
    - Unsure, susceptible to being lost
  - Determine who and how to contact once this list is completed.

## IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Flood response
  - Sumas WID decision to develop a media story with flood images and stories was discussed. Supportive but unclear what can and will happen next.

- b. Ditch maintenance – need to consider projects and begin permitting
  - Double Ditch – spot cleaning when the ditch is dry? Use mitigation we have built up to do so?
  - Assink Road ditch
- c. R & E contract – Larry discussed a change in how the contract to assist landowners with culvert replacements was working. This led to Harman moved we not make payments on invoices until the project is completed. This would provide up to \$2k in engineering support for completed projects, not those in planning or development, Kevin E seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- d. WCD Update – Henry noted that Frank Corey was more available to help with fish and drainage issues.
- e. Buffer proposal – Fred noted the Legislature was advancing a bill that would require forested buffers around all waterways. Looks to be 200’ on each side of the stream. It is calculated that 30,000 acres of Whatcom farmland would be affected.

## V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Erika had emailed an updated monitoring report. High counts at the border on Double Ditch.
- b. DNA testing – David will be looking for samples that may benefit from DNA sampling.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – no recent sampling.
- d. Manure storage and transport – The Conservation Districts and the Dairy Federation have some funds to assist dairies will moving manure to empty lagoons.

## VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – [www.northlyndenwid.com](http://www.northlyndenwid.com)
- b. AWB flyer and draft cover letter – reviewed and a second version will be sent to the board in a few weeks. We hope to have a final version prepared before the February board meeting and a letter sent to landowners mid-February. Including a note that the fees are set annually and the board has a goal of lowering the fee in the future was suggested.
- c. Family Farmers Rally – Fred noted the date is likely in late February or March and expects to be a place where farmers can become informed about opportunities for help with an adjudication, drainage, and flood management.

## VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings,

Larry adjourned the meeting at 10:35. Next meeting is February 15. Larry is not available. Kevin will determine if we hold or cancel the meeting until March.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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