

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: October 19, 2021 Meeting, 9 am

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 836 2663 1587 Passcode: 832553

Board Attending:

Brad Rader Harman Brar Kevin Te Velde
 Kevin Engelsma Larry Stap

Others Attending:

Gavin Willis Henry Bierlink Jay Chennault
 Fred Likkel Alan Chapman Bill Clarke
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 September 21 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

Kevin TV moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Harman seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- ii. **Executive Session** – Larry called the meeting into Executive Session at 9:07. Discussion with legal counsel on authority of WIDs and potential litigation – up to 30 minutes. (Board members only). Larry called the meeting back to order at 9:34.

III. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Larry and Brad need to be nominated. Both signed the nomination forms.
- b. AWB Budget request – lower than 2021, encouragement for WIDs to budget for water right acquisition, project development, and legal reserve to address adjudication.
- c. 2022 Workplan & Budget
 - Resolution 2021-1 – Setting the 2022 Assessment Rate and Budget
 - Resolution 2020-2 – Adopting the 2022 Assessment Roll
 - November 16th Board of Equalization

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 – two positions in Bertrand, one in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, one in South Lynden, and one 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 2022 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in Laurel will be heard at 10am, November 8th; for Bertrand at 2pm, November 8th; for Sumas at 1pm, November 9th; for South Lynden at 3pm, November 9th; for North Lynden at 9am, November 16th; and for Drayton at 3pm, November 16th, all at the District's office or via Zoom. Contact the WID administrator for access to the meeting@ info@agwaterboard.com. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 12th to November 5th.

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts' offices located at 204 Hawley Street, Lynden.

Public Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 13, 20, 27

The Board stressed the need to show value to farmers for the assessments collected. Any increase should be justified by additional services provided. The large increase planned for our project budget has been targeted for items such as legal research on flow claims, acquiring water rights for

the WID, and providing technical information for support of water rights claims. A letter to all WID parcel owners should make the purpose of the increase clear. It should explain what we have done and what the increase will allow us to do.

Brad moved to set the rate at \$10/acre, Kevin TV seconded, motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate
 - Summary of legal status, direction
 - Solutions Table – County leadership
 - October 21st Watershed Mgt Board mtg
 - o Solutions Table discussion with Jay and Maia
 - o Project proposals from Tribes, PUD, Land Trust, and AWB
- b. Project List – add, edit, prioritize – focus on surface to ground conversions – Jay provided a list of surface water rights tied to current ownership. The board was challenged to review this list with consideration of the size of the right (likely over .5 cfs to significant enough) and complexity of making the transfer (fewer unrelated owners).
- c. Water Rights list – develop strategy to obtain rights – Jay provided a complete list of rights tied to current ownership. The board is challenged to locate rights that may be underused or in danger of relinquishment. Larry called attention to the Double Ditch Water Association right. Jay will include this information. Two other rights that may be available were discussed.
- d. North County Water Supply formation – a draft agreement is being circulated. We expect a final version to be considered at the November meeting.

V. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Stormwater Interlocal with Lynden, BWID
 - Willamette Partnership scope of work is in process.
- b. Ditch maintenance
 - Gill – no action
 - Spraying – work is occurring, expect an invoice for the November meeting
- c. Beaver trapping – Lenssen – Pete Smit is doing some trapping there.

VI. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred did not have updated information as the County’s interactive website has been down. He noted some high counts on Fishtrap near the border were likely caused by land disturbance in BC.

VII. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.northlyndenwid.com
- b. Family Farmers Rally on November 17th.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Meeting was adjourned at 10:26. Next meeting is November 16

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____