

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: September 15, 2015 Meeting, 10am – Noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u> o </u> Casey Lankhaar | <u> x </u> Roger Bajema | <u> </u> Don Van Mersbergen |
| <u> x </u> Darryl Vander Haak | <u> x </u> Larry Stap | <u> x </u> Brad Rader |
| <u> </u> Erika Douglas | <u> x </u> Henry Bierlink | <u> x </u> Ed Blok |
| <u> x </u> Fred Likkel | <u> x </u> Mark Sandal | <u> x </u> Rich Appel |

x = present o = absent with notice

I. Administrative

- A. Review and Approval of May 19 Minutes – Darryl moved to approve, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- B. Financial Report

| | <u>Original</u> <u>Amount</u> | <u>This Month</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Available</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Grant #1 | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| Grant #2 | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| Fund Balance @ 9/1/2015 | | \$7,378.36 | | |
| Accounts Receivable | | | | |
| Invoices Submitted for reimbursement | | | | |
| TOTAL Available | | | | \$7,378.36 |
| Outstanding bills: | | | | \$2,882.88 |
| Whatcom Farm Friends | | | | |
| All Season Spraying | | | \$1,294.88 | |
| Enduris | | <i>Insurance 9/15 - 9/16</i> | \$1,588.00 | |
| End of Month Balance | | | | \$4,495.48 |
| | <u>2015 Budget</u> | <u>Expended to Date</u> | | <u>Balance</u> |
| Insurance | 1,550 | 1,588.00 | | -38.00 |
| Projects | 2,964 | 1,294.88 | | 1,669.12 |
| Administration | 1,500 | 1,107.75 | | 392.25 |
| | 6,014 | 3,990.63 | | 2,023.37 |

Concerns over insurance costs for the WIDs were expressed. It is not clear why drainage districts have only \$175/yr. in costs and the WIDs are \$1,588. Fred offered to ask Bill Knutzen to review these policies.

Roger moved to approve the Financial Report, Darryl seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- C. Board - prepare for nominations for directors (Larry and Casey's terms are up) and 2016 Budget preparation. Larry agreed to be renominated. Casey has indicated he does not plan to run. The board discussed potential nominees. Roger moved to nominate Brad Rader to run for Casey's position, Darryl seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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 – three positions in Bertrand, one in Drayton, one in Laurel, two 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 2016 Assessment Role 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, December 1st; for Drayton at 3pm, December 15th; for Laurel at 10am, December 14th; for North Lynden at 10am, December 15th; for South Lynden at 3pm, December 8th; and for Sumas at 1pm, December 8th, all at the District's office. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 26th to November 27th.

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

Public Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 14, 21, 28

II. Old Business

A. Ag Water Board Report

i. Legal

- Legal Defense Agreement is in place. Bill Clarke has been providing memos for the Legal Defense team so that we have a better understanding of the potential legal positions for parties likely to be part of a settlement or court proceedings.

ii. Media Relations

- Herald columns – Gerald Baron has been working with the Media Relations Committee to craft columns that advocate for farmers concerns.

iii. Whatcom Family Farmers

- Organization of board – an initial meeting is to be held 3:30 Sept. 23rd.

B. NLWID membership in AWB

Larry summarized some of the concerns that the NLWID board had with joining the effort. Concern about losing the WIDs focus was primary as it would be the smallest WID on a board where votes are weighted by acreage. The speed of changes also concerned the WID as a lot of change and money was spent in a hurry without fully understanding its implications. The WID wanted to see more clarity in what benefit North Lynden farmers would receive from the increased assessments needed to be part of the AWB. AWB members responded by recognizing that each WID was still in charge of its own priorities and budgets. They believed that some of the larger issues – water rights, water quality, legal representation – would better be done cooperatively among all WIDs while issues like ditching and drainage were primarily dealt within each WID. They also pointed to the need to have NLWID involved so that the AWB could correctly claim to be a unified voice for farmers. The points will be considered and decided at the October NLWID meeting.

III. New Business

A. Ditch and Dike Maintenance

- identify sites for maintenance – 5 year permits are a goal. Roger noted that the Corps required a permit for placing gravel in a stream – a practice he was required to do as mitigation for ditch cleaning.
- Tree at Weg's – not clear if Rick wants it out. Looks to be a continued drainage problem. Darryl will talk to him.
- spray permit – Roger obtained it and the ditches were sprayed.
- County herbicide policy – Henry alerted the Board to continued concerns at the County about road and ditch maintenance with Roundup.
- Mark discussed the City's drainage priorities. They would partner with the WID on projects through their stormwater maintenance program. They have upsized

culverts on Benson Road and are focused on the Pepin Creek reroute as a drainage priority.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results were distributed. Ecology seems eager to provide more source testing which involves more than just fecal coliform testing.
- Water quality in the City was poor in recent tests. Mark noted the City was working with the CD on water quality education and follow up monitoring.
- Fred noted that the draft of a CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operation) permit has a severe impact on dairies. This is a primary concern for dairies over the next months.

C. Water Quantity

- Planning Unit – it continues to flounder despite efforts to focus and direct its work. Henry sees it as providing a potentially valuable feedback and advisory role to the County on water issues but it is stuck in process and debates over its “authority” most of the time.
- Out of Stream Users Group – Lynden, the PUD, the AWB, and likely Bellingham are discussing a focused effort to better understand and advocate for out-of-stream water uses.
- Drought Preparation application – Bill and Henry have been drafting a proposal to be submitted to Ecology under the Drought Emergency Fund that would analyze significant water rights in each WID, match them as best as possible with existing water uses, and prepare a water brokerage or banking system that would facilitate permanent or seasonal transfers.
- The Lummi’s are seeking an early October meeting to follow up on the discussion initiated at the June 3 meeting at Lummi.

D. Education

- Website www.northlyndenwid.com
- The need for a one page sheet outlining the benefits of becoming a part of the Ag Water Board was noted. If the WID was going to take that route they want to be able to clearly explain to the landowners the benefits of doing so.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

October 20

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____