

# North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: November 15, 2022 Meeting, 9 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84465473962?pwd=disxOVk2UWliNXIYRk9rQkZrdTJ1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 844 6547 3962 Passcode: 787948

### Board Attending:

Brad Rader                       Harman Brar                       Kevin Te Velde

Kevin Engelsma                       Larry Stap

### Others Attending:

Cynthia May                       Henry Bierlink                       Jay Chennault

Fred Likkel                       Steve Banham                       Katie Faber

Heather MacKay                       Mark Sandal                       Nichole Fink

*x = present      o = absent with notice      t = teleconference      p = proxy*

Larry convened the meeting at 9:06.

## Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Harman moved to open the Board of Equalization, Kevin seconded, motion carried unanimously. With no one present to contest the assessments Brad moved to close the Board of Equalization, Kevin seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of October 18, 2022 minutes
- b. Financial Report

NL1122	AWB	Oct. - Dec. AWB	\$6,761.64
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$6,761.64</b>

Brad moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Harman seconded, motion carried unanimously

### II. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Both Kevin’s are elected to another 3 year term. Congratulations and Thanks!

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
  - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement – we continue to build support for this type of an approach as the major focus area with the state adjudication either replaced or incorporated in the settlement as only an element of the larger picture.
  - Ecology floating “Solutions Showcase” – learning from the [Yakima example](#) - the late October presentation to the Watershed Management Board was a ringing endorsement for our approach to resolving issues and a challenge to the adjudication first perspective.
  - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – forming an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted.
  - Ecology adjudication budget request and AWB response – we are preparing a letter to the Legislature that will be sent before Thanksgiving that challenges Ecology’s major focus on adjudication funding and instead directs investment to broader management of issues including habitat, flooding, and water supply.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - AWB establishing – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – Bill is setting up a meeting with Ecology to advance this.
  - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – will occur once the details of the Exchange are developed. Hopefully by early spring.

- Follow-up with key acquisition candidates as identified by the WID in earlier reviews of the water right database.
- c. AESI update – Jay reported that Katie participated in a recent meeting where Robin MF had further outlined Ecology’s adjudication plans. They expect the Legislature to approve the requested funding and have the Governor determine to file the adjudication on July 1, 2023. It will begin in later 2023. Robin also announced Ecology has formed a simplified process for domestic well owners that would not require much effort to keep their exempt well permits. But in return they would be limited to 500 gallons a day. If they want up to the 5,000 gallon limit they would need to file along with the farmers and group system rights.

#### **IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. Ditch maintenance
  - Bender, Assink, and Double ditches – ditch mowing by the County was much appreciated this year. Bender cleaning may still happen as it doesn’t require mitigation. Assink requires mitigation. The Pangborn ditch near Bender should be addressed next year.
  - Culvert replacement program that was introduced last meeting was noted but no new action on it.
- b. Buffer requirements – Fred noted a more realistic attitude among fisheries advocates about the size of buffers. Nevertheless, there remain political pressures to mandate 200’ buffers on all streams.
- c. CLASS update – Fred and Henry reported that a Hydraulics and Habitat study is being pursued. Lynden is seeking \$50k in grant funds to accomplish this. It may have to be phased as the budget estimate exceeded that amount. A letter to the landowners and the participants in the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting is being mailed.
- d. WCD update – Cynthia remind the board that Disaster assistance funding is still available for flood damage costs and she expects this may be an ongoing opportunity for future disaster relief for farmers. It was also noted that the WCD request for a parcel assessment to provide a financial base for their programs passed County Council. This will be \$5/parcel on all ag parcels. Cities will also be assessed.
- e. Beaver trapping – a few dams on Fishtrap on Denny Lensen’s were noted.

#### **V. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – Cynthia review the most recent data. It had some areas of concern but overall it was encouraging news.

#### **VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.northlyndenwid.com](http://www.northlyndenwid.com)

#### **VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Larry adjourned the meeting at 10:09. Next meetings are December 20, January 17 with the December meeting likely cancelled.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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