

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 17, 2023 Meeting, 9 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84171680149?pwd=djg1bi8wclJZZHdjZTVuWjF0Q0syQT09>

Meeting ID: 841 7168 0149 Passcode: 186706

Board Attending:

Brad Rader Harman Brar Kevin Te Velde
 Kevin Engelsma Larry Stap

Others Attending:

Gavin Willis Henry Bierlink Jay Chennault
 Fred Likkel _____ Steve Banham _____ Katie Faber
 Cynthia May Alan Chapman _____ Erika Douglas
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference p = proxy

Larry convened the meeting at 9:04.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 15 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

NL0123	AWB	Jan - Feb. AWB	\$6,649.08
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$6,649.08

Brad moved approval of the Consent Agenda after reviewing the minutes and financial report, Kevin TV seconded, motion passed unanimously.

II. Administrative

- a. Oath of Office – Kevin Engelsma, Kevin Te Velde were sworn in.
- b. Election of Officers: President, Secretary, AWB Representative – Brad moved to keep Larry as President, Kevin TV as Vice-Chair/Secretary, and Brad as AWB representative, Kevin TV seconded, motion carried unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
 - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement as one option.
 - Ecology adjudication budget request may be packaged with guidelines for the adjudication and support for alternative settlement processes.
 - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – forming an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
 - AWB establishing – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – recent mtg with Ecology indicates we can do some our water right protection strategy without creating a formal bank. But we will still be pursuing it as an option if needed.
 - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – likely this summer after we see the status of the adjudication and have the parameters of the Exchange established.
 - Follow-up with key acquisition candidates as were identified by the WID Board last spring.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance
 - Pangborn Ditch – on the list when talking to the county
 - Culvert replacement – considering a proactive program to identify problem culverts that hinder drainage and fish passage and replace them in return for mitigation credit to be applied to drainage improvement projects.
- b. Buffer requirements – will continue to be an issue at the Legislature. Gavin noted that the Conservation Commission is likely to be awarded funds for a voluntary program over 2 years.

There will be pressure to see progress or the mandatory buffer argument will be even stronger in the future. The Conservation District is offering a buffer worksession with each of the WIDs. The NLWID is open to participating in February or March meetings.

- c. Beaver trapping – Gavin noted the USDA Wildlife Services trapper is open to helping with beaver reduction. They cannot compete with the private sector.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Cynthia shared recent data that is quite good in most cases but quite bad in the Pepin system. Very large bacteria numbers coming across the BC border and continuing downstream. The County has connected with the BC govt and some sites have been identified as likely sources.
- b. DNA testing – no update
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – concern was expressed if the recent numbers would impact the Portage numbers. Cynthia didn't know.
- d. County staff changes – Erika sent a message via Cynthia that she has been moved to a more administrative position leaving her less available for participation at our meetings.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.Northlyndenwid.com

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Henry called attention to staff changes at the Ag Water Board. Gavin will be coming onto the AWB staff and beginning to take over administration of the WIDs and AWB board. Henry will continue in the water supply area for awhile but moving towards retirement.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Larry adjourned the meeting at 10:01. Next meetings are February 21, March 21

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____