

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: November 17, 2015 Meeting, 10am – Noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

<input type="checkbox"/> Casey Lankhaar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Bajema	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Van Mersbergen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darryl Vander Haak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Stap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erika Douglas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Gillies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Sandal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mitch Moorlag

x = present o = absent with notice

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of October 20 Minutes
- 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
Fund Balance @ 11/1/2015		\$5,887.04		
Accounts Receivable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$5,887.04
Outstanding bills:				\$1,040.00
Whatcom Farm Friends May - October expenses, hours			\$1,040.00	
End of Month Balance				\$4,847.04
	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>Expended to Date</u>		<u>Balance</u>
Insurance	1,550	1,588.00		-38.00
AWB	0	0.00		0.00
Projects	2,964	1,294.88		1,669.12
Administration	1,500	2,147.75		-647.75
	6,014	5,030.63		983.37

Darryl moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Don seconded, motions carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Administrative

- Brad was the only nominee for the open seat on the board.

Last	First	term expiration
Bajema	Roger	12/31/2017
Rader	Brad	12/31/2018
Van Mersbergen	Don	12/31/2016
Vander Haak	Darryl	11/30/2016
Stap	Larry	12/31/2015

- Equalization issues in the North Lynden WID will be heard at 10 am, December 15th. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 26th to November 27th.

B. Ag Water Board report

- Legal
 - Interviews with potential litigators will be held soon. There is no solid plan to use them at this point but the AWB wants to be ready if defense of our mission and goals is necessary.

- The Environmental Insurance policy being offered at Guide Insurance was noted. If this proves useful it will have an impact on what the Legal Defense team does.
- Lummi Settlement Update – Farmers have sent a letter of response to the invitation and will be meeting with Lummi on their response soon.
- Media Relations
 - Herald columns – addressing water quality and the water tax proposal
 - CAFO Permit – 140 farmers attended the meeting with Ecology Director Maia Bellon.
- Financial

<u>WID</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Insurance</u>	<u>Adm/W.</u> <u>Qt.</u>	<u>Legal</u>	<u>W.</u> <u>Qual/Dr.</u>	<u>Public</u> <u>Affairs</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>%</u>
Bertrand	24%	\$876	\$3,600	\$6,480	\$3,802	\$10,560	25,318	\$18,538.48	\$6,779.12	73.2%
S. Lynden	21%	\$767	\$3,150	\$5,670	\$3,326	\$9,240	22,153	\$16,620.00	\$5,532.90	75.0%
Drayton	11%	\$402	\$1,650	\$2,970	\$1,742	\$4,840	11,604	\$8,620.00	\$2,983.90	74.3%
Laurel	13%	\$475	\$1,950	\$3,510	\$2,059	\$5,720	13,714	\$9,934.91	\$3,778.79	72.4%
Sumas	31%	\$1,132	\$4,650	\$8,370	\$4,910	\$13,640	32,702	\$25,962.06	\$6,739.84	79.4%
		3,650	15,000	27,000	15,840	44,000	105,490	\$79,675.45	\$25,814.55	75.5%

III. New Business

A. Ditch and Dike Maintenance

- Joint meeting with the Corps of Engineers, WDFW, the City of Lynden, Ecology, and the WID. Fred will set up in January.
- Henry will get a map of the WID to the Corps to follow up on Roger's discussion with them to obtain a permit to place gravel as mitigation for cleaning ditches.
- A letter to landowners where drainage is being affected by a private practice was discussed. It was decided this should be a very specific, targeted letter sent only when we need to communicate with a specific person. Fred will prepare a draft.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results were reviewed. Fred noted that the FC E coli ratio ranged between 48-60%. Erika reported the Health Department was focused on septics in the Bertrand, Kamm, and Fishtrap drainages. John noted the numbers we see today are far lower than what occurred in the past. There remains a good story to tell about landowner cooperation with water quality improvements over the years.
- The County will continue to aggressively monitor in Fishtrap in 2016. There may be increasing sampling frequency as well as adding more parameters to the testing such as E Coli and Ammonia.
- Options presented by County on how to approach landowners once sources are clearly identified. Erika submitted a draft letter that the WID might consider sending, or being a partner with the County in sending.

C. Water Quantity

- Planning Unit – still meeting but County has no more support in the 2016 budget.
- Out of Stream Users Group – expected to have an initial group meeting in December.
- Drought Preparation application – Bill and Henry expect to submit to Ecology soon.

D. Update of WID Comprehensive Plan

- Puget Sound Partnership – Local Integrating Agency – Near Term Action list – Henry distributed an overview of a request for support for WID Plan development funding through the Puget Sound Partnership. This is an early draft of the scope and budget of the project.

- Comprehensive Plan Update – mapping project – Heather MK submitted a memo describing the opportunity for the WID to make use of some County grant dollars to do some mapping of the WID that could be used in the development of the WID Plan and in identifying areas where ag priorities and environmental priorities may provide opportunities for future projects. The board agreed to work with this proposal at the December meeting.

E. Education –

- Letter to members – A draft of a letter explain the assessment rate increase was reviewed. Larry will try to incorporate the current draft with the suggested message that Erika provided.
- Website www.northlyndenwid.com

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting – December 15

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____