

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 16, 2018 Meeting, 10am – Noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Board Attending:

Brad Rader Harman Brar Kevin Te Velde
 Jeff Bedlington Larry Stap

Others Attending:

Erika Douglas Henry Bierlink _____ Darryl Vander Haak
 Fred Likkel _____ Mark Sandal _____ Monette Boswell
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 21 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>11/1/2017</u>	<u>Last Month</u>	<u>12/1/2017</u>	<u>ANNUAL TOTAL</u>
2017 Assessments Received		\$8,154.90		\$34,765.04
Fund Balance	\$12,752.62		\$20,907.52	
Beginning Year Balance			\$11,562.61	
Outstanding bills:				\$3,720.19
Ag Water Board <i>Jan AWB</i>			\$2,000.71	
Ag Water Board <i>Hydraulic permit fees</i>			\$1,719.48	
All Season Spraying <i>mitigation prep</i>				
End of Month Balance				\$17,187.33
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	\$24,054	24,054.00		0.00
Projects	\$9,818	6,587.16		3,230.84
Insurance/Adm	\$1,618	1,890.86		-272.86
	\$35,490	32,532.02	\$0.00	2,957.98

Brad moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Kevin seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- a. Oath of Office for Harman Brar – Harman was sworn in to replace Roger.
- b. Election of Chair for 2018 - Brad moved to retain Larry as chair, Kevin seconded, motion carried unanimously. Kevin moved to appoint Brad as vice-chair, Harman seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- c. Review Priority Issue and Activity lists – Develop 2018 Action priorities:
 - *Continue water quality monitoring - work with county on the PIC program – include BC and Lynden in this efforts*
 - *Connect with BC farmers, landowners, and agencies regarding water quality*
 - *Ditch maintenance on local ditches – demonstrate difference in water quality sampling improvement*
 - *Continue contacts with neighbors regarding practices – request that ERTS complaints be routed to the NLWID – strive to be the first point of contact*
 - *Spray ditches annually for Reed Canary Grass*
 - *Make use of 5 year permit for drainage maintenance. Identify drainage projects in Spring. Find funding and complete mitigation for projects.*
 - *Work on Culvert repair and replacement.*
 - *Stay current with groundwater protection efforts*

III. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Erika distributed tables and graphs. There were mixed results in the last part of 2017. DOH is still taking intensive sampling in the Bay with hopes the beds can be proven ready to open.
- b. South Lynden source tracking project – will be reported in February.
- c. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – there are three units in service (*River at PUD and Lynden intake, and Fishtrap at LCHS*) and three on the way. The next two will be installed on Double Ditch at the border and Bertrand at Rathbone. The third may be installed as a semi portable unit on a trailer with its own water and power source as well as security. Turbidity has been a complicating factor in providing reliable readings.
- d. Report on landowner contacts – Larry is talking to a landowner about sediment issues.

IV. Water Supply

- a. Hirst/Foster fix bills – Bertrand is proposed as a pilot project in the “Foster Fix” bill.
- b. Review and discuss “Next Steps” draft from AWB Board – The board was presented with some background on how the Watershed Management Board has developed and what opportunity there is to help them focus on some tangible tasks in the near future. The AWB’s proposal to engage in developing agreements through drainage based management plans is one of the major ideas being considered. Other tasks include water quantity and quality monitoring, further development of the surface and groundwater models and budgets, and a basin-wide Water Supply Plan.

AWB has tentatively approved the “Next Steps” proposal but needs to vet it with each WID before taking it to a broader audience. The WIDs are asked to agree with continuing work on developing the proposal and for ideas to make it better. NLWID discussion raised numerous questions with much of the discussion about how the agreements reached in the pilots would be implemented. In particular, the idea of water banks raised concerns. Water banks would seem to imply that some farmers will be paying for water and the WIDs would hold the water rights. The board felt that new water rights should be issued only to landowners.

The Board agreed to keep the dialogue going with the AWB which intends to hold several Strategy Development Sessions between their quarterly board meetings. All WID commissioners are encouraged to participate. The next session is scheduled for 1pm on January 30th.

- c. Support from State via \$450k budget request – The AWB, PUD, and Whatcom County request for State assistance in implementing the WRIA #1 Management Plan is likely to be funded from an allocation to Ecology coming out of the Hirst/Foster fix bills being debated. This would provide for much of the expense of implementing the drainage based management concept.

V. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Fish/Flood meeting - Fred provide notes that summarized the discussion between farmers and Ned Currance (Nooksack) and Alan Chapman (Lummi). All agreed it was a valuable exchange of information. Fish runs are down 25% from the time when they were listed. Concerns are placed more upstream and in the ocean than in the lower watershed. But we can do something and the farmers agree we need to do our part.
- b. Ditch maintenance
 - Fishtrap mitigation – mitigation on the Heeringa property will occur in March/April.
 - Benson culvert – need to finish a project that stalled last fall. Fred will talk with Joel, Berry Acres, and the County.
 - Pangborn Rd. ditch – the old Haan field is still sitting in water. Some ideas on how to address this problem were discussed.
 - Spraying – landowners on the west side of Double Ditch have constant drainage issues. An offer to include the west side of Double Ditch in the NLWID’s next spray permit for as much as the Bertrand WID wants will be sent. Erika will look into writing a note of support for this.

- c. 5-year programmatic permit – Frank finished the plan. We need to plan projects this spring so we can make the system work.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.northlyndenwid.com

VII. Ag Water Board

- a. Winter newsletter – A newsletter is planned in February – Larry will draft a NLWID report.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

February 20

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____