

# North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: April 19, 2022 Meeting, 9 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83440503329?pwd=NG4wMmFRMU9kbTdoREcrWlhMcDIlQT09>

Meeting ID: 834 4050 3329 Passcode: 098331

### Board Attending:

Brad Rader                       Harman Brar                       Kevin Te Velde  
 Kevin Engelsma                       Larry Stap

### Others Attending:

Alan Chapman                       Henry Bierlink                       Jay Chennault  
 Fred Likkel                       Steve Banham                       Katie Faber  
*x = present      o = absent with notice      t = teleconference      p = proxy*

Larry called the meeting to order at 9:04.

## I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of March 15, 2022 minutes
- b. Financial Report

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

## II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
  - AWB contracted with Somach Law - focus on building alternatives to adjudication – federal, settlement options
  - Legal – Water Supply Team members preparing contract with same legal team
- b. Solutions Table
  - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating a May/June start – draft is being considered.
  - Linking with proviso supporting federal involvement in water mgt. (flood, supply, habitat)
  - Project List – to be offered at Solutions Table
    - i. Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted
- c. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - Determine who and how to contact
  - Menu of options for landowners – use Bertrand transfer project as a template for others
  - Will be working on a clear set of options to present to the water right holders we identified as uncertain if they would be defending their rights in an adjudication.
- d. [North County Interlocal Agreement](#) – draft was provided by Dan E. – Kevin moved that the NLWID approve the Agreement, Harman seconded, motion carried unanimously.

## III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Flood recovery – Fred updated the board on recent actions. The FLIP process has a 1.5 day meeting and tour planned for later this month. Several farmers will be participating.
- b. County Road ditch cleaning – Kevin moved approval of the use of our HPA permit to focus on the following areas for cleaning this year, Harman seconded, motion carried unanimously.
  - W. Bender Rd. ditch – first priority
  - Assink Road ditch
- c. Mitigation – we have some banked mitigation credit from the Fishtrap project. Other opportunity for more is likely on the upper Fishtrap on the Zylstra farm. Fred noted the Conservation Commission has \$10m available for habitat improvements that may help with this. Larry referenced a 1998 study indicating that ag land generated \$9k per acre annually, Kevin noted inflation would make that \$16k now. This might be the basis for a proposal to take farmland out of production for habitat improvements on a contractual basis.

- d. West Lynden Stormwater – Fred noted the work is initially focused in the Bertrand but will widen to the entire area of the Bertrand and North Lynden WIDs in the future.
- e. WCD Update – Alan called attention to the update of the Long Range Plan and a survey the CD is circulating that would help guide that plan. A key issue is creating stable (non-grant) funding for the CD. They are seeking advice on asking the County for a per parcel fee. The board reminded Alan that an Ag Engineer was a key need for farmers. The board was encouraged to fill out the survey and make that need clear.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVNTT6Z>

#### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred noted the numbers were generally quite good with a few exceptions. Erika has sent notices when there are troubling numbers.
- b. DNA testing – Henry reported that David has submitted a few DNA samples. A recent sample from Sumas indicated predominately avian influence.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – an update of the strategy is ongoing. Most of the proposed changes are to rural residential and hobby farms. Fred has been advocating for stopping testing in some spots where the recent history has been consistently good and moving to more troubling water quality locations.

#### **V. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.northlyndenwid.com](http://www.northlyndenwid.com)
- b. WFF Educational Event – May 25<sup>th</sup> – the board was asked for ideas on what should be covered. It is anticipated we'd have an afternoon educational session(s) followed by the Farmer Rally in the early evening. The Board suggested involvement from attorneys, local land use attorneys, and Jay Chennault. Larry asked if it could be recorded as he is out of the area that day.

#### **VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Larry adjourned the meeting at 10:22. Next meetings are May 17, June 21, although the May meeting is likely to be cancelled as field work should be the priority.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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