

# North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 16, 2020 Meeting, 10 am

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 852 4241 9783 Password: 079120

### Board Attending:

  t   Brad Rader                        x   Harman Brar                        o   Kevin Te Velde  
  x   Kevin Engelsma                        x   Larry Stap

### Others Attending:

  t   Alan Chapman                        x   Henry Bierlink                      \_\_\_\_\_ George Boggs  
  t   Fred Likkel                        t   Steve Banham                        t   Meg Harris  
\_\_\_\_\_ Heather MacKay                      \_\_\_\_\_ Mark Sandal                      \_\_\_\_\_ Erika Douglas  
*x = present    o = absent with notice    t = teleconference    p = proxy*

## I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Ag Water Board	May - August AWB	<b>\$7,919.64</b>
	TOTAL - Month	<b>\$7,919.64</b>

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

## II. Administrative

- a. Adopt Purchasing Policy – Henry explained that the Bertrand WID was coordinating the payment of invoices for the Duffner tidegate project which had several funding partners including state grant funding. A clear purchasing policy for the WID is needed to make this work properly and stay in line with state purchasing requirements. Each WID is presented with the opportunity to adopt a similar policy so it can be ready to take on similar projects. Brad moved approval of the NLWID Purchasing Policy, Kevin seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Appoint Auditing officer – A requirement of the Purchasing Policy is the appointment of a designated Auditing Officer for the WID. The Auditing Officer needs to have a \$50k bond. Brad moved appointment of Henry Bierlink as the NLWID Auditing Officer, Kevin seconded, motion carried unanimously.

## III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate – Henry reported:
  - AWB position shared by Bellingham, PUD, private wells.
  - The County is currently choosing to remain neutral in the debate hoping to be in the position to facilitate future negotiations either under an adjudication or remaining in negotiations under the Water Management Board. AWB is pressing the County and the Planning Unit to take a position in opposition to adjudication.
  - Adjudication supported only by Tribes and environmental caucus of the Planning Unit.
  - Ecology position likely by July. Report to the Legislature is due in September.
  - COVID impacts on the State budget make funding for a new adjudication in 2021 very unlikely. However, Ecology could file the legal work for an adjudication on its own. Legislative approval is only for funding. We do not want the Nooksack to be recommended.
  - Fred reported that Family Farmers is conducting a campaign to call attention to the negative effects of an adjudication.

Regional Water Supply task force selected Aspect Consulting as contractor. This is the beginning of the Drainage Based Management negotiations that we are advancing instead of an adjudication. The consultant team selected to guide this process is new to AWB but has worked for both Tribes in the past.

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

- a. North County drainage concerns - Drainage discussion with Lynden – Steve Banham outlined the recent thinking on the “Pepin Lite” project. He observed that the new culverts/bridges that WSDOT is requiring on Badger Road will provide water to move quicker off the NLWID and into the City. The City has moved to a phased project approach choosing to reroute traffic rather than move ditches.
- b. Bender Rd. bridges/culverts – Kevin had attended a meeting with Joel and the County on the Bender Road issues. The road is eroding and several culverts are problematic. The County has the east ditch permitted and ready to be fixed this summer. Kevin moved to allow the County and the Bender landowners to use the NLWID’s HPA to accomplish work that is done in consultation with Frank or an engineer, Brad seconded, motion carried unanimously. The Bedlington and Van Dalen culverts would be included in the project.
- c. Culvert removal – Brad suggested there are some culverts that are no longer being used. He asked Fred to check if doing this would provide banked mitigation for other projects.
- d. Ditch maintenance
  - Spray permit – add the Assink and Pangborn ditches
  - West Depot ditch – between Pangborn and Badger – checking with the County
  - Assink Road ditch – may need to clean after spraying for the new weed there.

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

- a. Monitoring Results – limited monitoring has been occurring. WQ website has not been updated.
- b. DNA project – Avian project initiated – all WIDs contributed to make the \$20k available. Fred expects Kent to have something to report this fall. Fred noted that Karen Steensma was part of a grant project studying bird behavior that may be able to augment this DNA project with some help and funding.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – shellfish harvesting is open with the exception of October – November.

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

- a. Website – [www.northlyndenwid.com](http://www.northlyndenwid.com)
- b. Ag Engineer support position – no report

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

September 15

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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