

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – February 14, 2025

Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Brad Rader (t) Kevin Te Velde Mitch Moorlag Harmon Brar Kevin Engelsma	

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Tania Grim	Ag Water Board
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers
Katie Faber (+)	AESI
Cynthia May (+)	Whatcom Conservation District

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Alan Chapman (+)	Whatcom Conservation District

Proceedings

LHS FFA Ag Issues team presented on issues of labeling for plant-based milk products.

Meeting called to order at 9:23 am

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from the January 21 meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports were reviewed.
- d. Voucher NL-Gen-0225 in the amount of \$3,987.50 was reviewed.
- e. Mitch moved to approve the consent agenda. Kevin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Brad will sign Oath of Office at the March meeting.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an adjudication update.
 - i. SB 5212, which would allow pre-code water users without a statement of claim to file in the adjudication, is on the Senate’s consent calendar, and will likely see floor action within the next few weeks.
- b. Whatcom Family Famers is continuing to work on public outreach pushing for settlement talks.

- i. Fred noted there will be a water rights event on March 26th.
- c. Gavin gave an update on discussions with federal lobbyist team and noted that the priority right now is building relationships that could lead to settlement talks.

4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Discussion about Bender ditch issues.
 - i. Gavin to follow up with City of Lynden and WDFW to decide how to move forward.
 - ii. Extend invite to WDFW to attend monthly board meeting.
- b. Discussion about county road ditches.
 - i. Board recommendation putting together a plan to deal with emergency issues for consideration at a future meeting.
- c. Beaver trapping was discussed. Main area of concern is Fishtrap south of Pangborn.

5. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided a water quality update. Counts have been mostly good, with the exception of some high counts coming across the border. Noted that a compost facility in the Pepin Creek drainage in BC has been identified as a contributor to water quality issues.
- b. Water quality in shellfish needs was discussed. There have been a few high counts in the past couple month tied to significant rainfall events.

6. Other

- a. Gavin provided OPMA training to Kevin T, Mitch and Harmon.

7. Next Meeting

- a. March 18

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by 