

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 15, 2024

Attendees

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

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Kevin TeVelde Brad Rader Larry Stap Harman Brar	Kevin Engelsma

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Bill Clarke (t)	Clarke Law
Cynthia May (t)	Whatcom Conservation Distrit
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Katie Faber (t)	AESI
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers
Henry Bierlink (t)	Ag Water Board

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Vivian Ericson	Peak Sustainability
Dave Timmer	City of Lynden Planning Department
Jon Hutchings	City of Lynden Public Works
Alan Chapman (t)	Whatcom Conservation District

Proceedings

Larry called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes of September 17 meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial report was reviewed.
- d. Voucher NL-Gen-0924 in the amount of \$3,811.42 was reviewed.
- e. Brad moved to approve the consent agenda. Kevin T seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Expiring board terms of Larry and Brad were discussed.
 - i. Brad indicated that he would be willing to serve another term. Larry indicated that he does not intend to seek another term at this point, and is working on finding another WID member who would be willing to run.

- ii. Kevin T moved to renominate Brad to another term. Larry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. The AWB budget requests and a draft budget for 2025 was reviewed and discussed.
 - i. Brad moved to approve Resolution 2024-03, adopting the 2025 budget and setting the assessment rate at \$10.00. Kevin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. The assessment rolls were reviewed. No property was annexed or removed from the district this year.
 - i. Kevin T moved to approve Resolution 2024-04, adopting the 2025 assessment roll. Brad seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Gavin noted that the November meeting will serve as the Board of Equalization. Notice will be published in the Lynden Tribune for both nomination of directors and the board of equalization.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Bill provided an adjudication update. At the September 26th hearing the court gave ECY 60 days to make corrections to the claims form, will likely be approved around the end of November or early December. Summons goes out early next year, which would set filing deadline in early 2026.
 - i. New draft legislation language that Bill has crafted would create a claims filing reopening for participants in the adjudication who have pre-code water use that is not documented. ECY supported similar legislation at the start of the Yakima adjudication process.
- b. Jay noted the upcoming water rights event at NWWF on October 22nd. Focus will be on the proposed claims form and how to fill it out. There will also be more water rights office hours on October 24 and December 6; sign up for those sessions is available on the Ag Water Board website.
 - i. He also noted that Whatcom County has received funding for technical studies from ECY, and has contracted with AESI to investigate how tile drains impact drainage, stream flows, and groundwater elevations. AESI will be looking for landowners to participate in that study.
- c. Vivian led a listening session around climate planning and community resilience related to the City of Lynden's comprehensive plan update. Items of discussion involved stormwater management, traffic impacts, farmland preservation, farm worker housing, ag support businesses, and other items.
 - i. Gavin will share Vivian's email address with board members in case they have further thoughts on the city's comp plan update.

4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Beaver management was discussed. A board member noted that they have contracted with a private trapper, to some success.
- b. Gavin noted that permits have been approved and ditch spraying will be happening soon.
- c. Fred noted that Whatcom County declined to clean out the remainder of Assink Road ditch, ostensibly because downstream culverts were undersized. He suspects that the county budget crunch was a contributing factor.

5. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided a water quality update.
 - i. 2 Fishtrap Focus runs have occurred since the last WID meeting. September 25 had high counts throughout the drainage (0.75" of rain in prior 24 hours). There has been a recurring pattern of Double Ditch West having higher counts than Double Ditch East. October 7 test (with no rain in prior 24 hours) had low counts north of Badger Rd, but higher counts within Lynden city limits.

- ii. Question from board member on coliform counts in the mainstem. Cynthia noted that monitoring during upcoming storm events will be looking more closely at the mainstem and marine environments.
- b. Fred noted that staff turnover on shellfish protection district has reduced reporting from them.
- c. Instream flows in Double Ditch were discussed. Stream flows have been increasingly inconsistent, and flow distributions between the west and east side have frequently been inverted over the past year.

6. Education / Communications

- a. Fred noted that WFF will be hosting their annual Farmer Rally on November 20th at 4:30 pm at the NWWF.

7. Next Meeting

- a. The November 19th board meeting will also serve as the Board of Equalization.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Willis', written over a horizontal line.