

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – November 19, 2024

Attendees

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

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Larry Stap Brad Rader (t) Kevin Engelsma Kevin Te Velde	Harman Brar

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Katie Faber (t)	AESI
Trevor Gearhart	Whatcom Conservation District
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers

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

Proceedings

Larry called the meeting to order at 9:19am.

1. Board of Equalization

- a. Larry opened the board of equalization.
- b. No one was present to contest their assessments.
- c. Kevin E moved to close the board of equalization. Brad seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from October 15 meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports were reviewed.
- d. Voucher NL.Gen.1024 in the amount of \$6,927.34 was reviewed.
- e. Brad moved to approve the consent agenda. Kevin E seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Administration

- a. Congratulations to Brad and Mitch who are elected to 3-year terms.
- b. Thank you to Larry for his many years of service on the board.
- c. Gavin provided an update on ongoing CLASS work, and shared the proposed amendment to the ILA which would extend the terms of the agreement to June 30, 2027.
 - i. Kevin moved to approve the extension. Brad seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin and Jay provided an update on proposed claims reopening legislation. Bill, Gavin, and Jay met with ECY staff to initially discuss the idea, and they weren't particularly supportive of the idea. They noted fiscal concerns, as well as concerns of fairness to farmers who had expended work and money to acquire and spread water rights.
 - i. Bill will be sharing the idea with other stakeholders, and then try and find a sponsor.
- b. Dec 3rd is next hearing date. Expectation is that the court will approve the claims form and direct ECY to issue the summons.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance was briefly discussed. Ditch spraying didn't occur this year due to permitting delays. Gavin noted that he will adjust the permit application timeline next year to avoid this issue.
- b. Beaver trapping was briefly discussed.
- c. Pepin Creek development was discussed. The City of Lynden has issued a SEPA DNS on development plans for the Bovenkamp property.
- d. Culvert issues throughout the district were discussed. Issues with funding culvert replacement occur when new culverts must follow fish passage guidelines, but permanent downstream barriers preclude access to funding typically used for fish passage culvert upgrades. Gavin will pursue some potential avenues to provide support to landowners that the board can consider at the next meeting.

6. Water Quality

- a. Trevor shared WQ results.
 - i. Tests immediately following Oct 19-20 rain event on Oct 21 showed high counts across the county. However, the Oct 24 and 30 follow up testing was remarkably good.
- b. Fred noted that Drayton Harbor had an emergency closure during the high rains, but Portage Bay didn't. Threshold for closure for Drayton is 2" of rainfall in 24 hours, while threshold for Portage is the river being at 19' at Ferndale. Board members noted that river gage readings are more influenced by melt/runoff conditions in the mountains, and not rainfall events in lowlands that may be drivers for fecal coliform numbers. Fred will continue to pursue that issue with the Department of Health.

7. Education / Communications

- a. Fred noted that WFF will be hosting their annual Farmer Rally tomorrow at 4:30pm at the fairgrounds.

8. Other

- a. Alan noted that the Conservation District has an election coming up. Sign up deadline for candidates is January 10.

9. Next Meeting

- a. Next scheduled meeting dates are December 17 and January 21.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:59am.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____