

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 12, 2016 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Blok	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff De Jong	<input type="checkbox"/> Landon Van Dyk
<input type="checkbox"/> Rod Vande Hoef	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rolf Haugen	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel
<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Gollen	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Bedlington
<input type="checkbox"/> Andy Bowler	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Noteboom	<input type="checkbox"/> Jake De Hoog
<input type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather McKay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sherm Polinder

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of March 8 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1	\$0.00			\$0.00
Fund Balance @ 4/1/2016		\$13,981.19		
Prior Month Expenses		\$3,548.00		
Assessments Received		\$1,705.74		
Fund Balance @ 5/1/2016		\$12,138.93		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$12,138.93
Outstanding bills:				\$1,448.00
Whatcom Family Farmers	<i>March Adm.</i>		\$480.00	
N3	<i>March Water Quality testing</i>		\$968.00	
End of Month Balance				\$10,690.93

	<u>2016 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	45,758	3,360.00	42,398.00
Projects	25,000	1,844.00	23,156.00
Adm/Insurance	7,188	1,200.00	5,988.00
	77,946	6,404.00	71,542.00

Jeff moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Rolf seconded, motion carried unanimously

II. Old Business

A. Ag Water Board report

- Legal
 - Lummi Settlement Update
- Media Relations & Water Quality contract with Family Farmers – The draft contract between WFF and AWB was perused. Board members were encouraged to provide Rod feedback. Jeff wondered if the County Council was being adequately covered by having an AWB representative present for meetings with ag issues on their agenda. Fred and Henry will keep a close watch on the agendas and try to arrange attendance as merited.
- Draft AWB Articles and Bylaws – Henry noted that Nicole Terpstra was helping to set these up.

III. New Business

A. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Ditch maintenance
- List of Ag Priority Actions generated at mapping work session
- Programmatic Drainage Permits – Ed reported that Scott Ditch DID has their 5 year permit renewed. Didn't know about DID #20.

A map noting the sites identified in the worksession and potential habitat sites was reviewed. Several potential projects helping with drainage and habitat were discussed. More focused meetings with affected landowners and potential project partners like WCD and NSEA were suggested. Projects discussed include poorly functioning culvert (#1) and lower Scott including a floodgate (#5,#6). Coordination with the Scott DID #21 is crucial.

B. Habitat – potential priority projects

- Kamm Creek north of Kamm Rd appears to have livestock access to stream, no buffers, and two fish passage barriers. Good spawning habitat. Would be a good NRCS/WID project following WID outreach to landowners. Unsure what property this is. Need to check with Frank.
- Riparian planting – priority areas are Kamm and Scott main channels.
- Fish passage – Failing culvert in Scott Ditch east of Thiel Rd.
- Drainage – Scott Ditch Hannegan Rd to river confluence. Could survey to determine causes. River sediment, levee along Scott preventing drainage? Also potential fish habitat area with better connection from ponded area to Scott Ditch. Same concerns as Project #5.
- Levee maintenance – Potential to cost share with FCZD to improve or set back section of Hampton levee prone to failure. A big project better left to the FCZD.

The WID was amenable to helping to arrange, coordinate, and even use some funds to attract other investments in some of these projects.

C. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results – showed some higher counts but not exceedingly high.
- Implementing WID protocol for addressing issues
 - Report on landowner contacts – Ed talked to one farmer and Jeff to two regarding the need to be careful with practices.
- Discussion of getting more research on sources of fecal coliform. There is concern that the E coli numbers, which are the real problem for shellfish, are only a fraction of the issue and other sources that cannot be controlled will make it too difficult to ever reach the standard. Fred will talk to WSU's Joe Harrison about some ideas.

D. Water Quantity

- Whatcom Water Supply Coalition
 - Ag's participation in the revised Interlocal Agreement for Whatcom
 - Working on a clear plan with goals, objectives, and actions which we hope to have in a presentable format by next month.
- Bureau of Reclamation Grant Application
 - Review of Water Rights and Needs for each WID – beginning in the South Lynden WID
 - Water Bank – part of the BOR and the Birch Bay Water District grant

E. Related Concerns

- County Comprehensive Plan update
 - Due in June – Farm Bureau funding a legal review – AWB advising
- Critical Areas Ordinance update
 - AWB submitted comments authored primarily by David Haggith

F. Education

- April 13th WFF farmer rally
- AWB/WID Newsletter
- Website www.southlyndenwid.com

G. Other Items from Commissioners

- Rolf urged a better understanding of fishing standards. He pointed out that much of our debate about water centers in what is needed for fish and we really don't understand the factors that influence fish populations. Could it be that everything we could reasonably do for fish – habitat, water quality, in-stream flows, etc. – would actually have no effect on fish?
- Fred noted that Family Farmers was actively counteracting the messaging from “What’s Up Stream” which points to farmers as the major source of pollution.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

May 10

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____