

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 9, 2016 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Ed Blok Jeff De Jong Landon Van Dyk
 Rod Vande Hoef Rolf Haugen

Henry Bierlink Mary Dumas David Haggith
 Steve Hood John Gillies Scott Bedlington
 Brad Rader Heather McKay _____ Sherm Polinder
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of February 9 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Grant #1	\$0.00			\$0.00
Fund Balance @ 3/1/2016		\$13,981.19		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$13,981.19
Outstanding bills:				\$3,548.00
Whatcom Family Farmers <i>February Admin</i>			\$320.00	
N3 <i>Water Quality testing, Feb</i>			\$428.00	
Whatcom Family Farmers <i>AWB Admin, W Supply</i>			\$2,800.00	
End of Month Balance				\$10,433.19
	<u>2016 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>		<u>Balance</u>
AWB	45,758	3,360.00		42,398.00
Projects	25,000	876.00		24,124.00
Adm/Insurance	7,188	720.00		6,468.00
	77,946	4,956.00		72,990.00

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

II. Old Business – Board went into Executive Session to consider:

- A. Administration - Proposal from AWB
 - Hire administrative team for AWB
 - 1) Administer WIDs and AWB
 - 2) Write, implement, and administer project grants
 - 3) Water supply
 - Contract with Family Farmers for:
 - 1) Water quality and drainage
 - 2) Media and community relations

Ed will communicate the Board’s desires to the AWB meeting on the 16th.
- B. Renewal of Water Quality Monitoring Contract with N3 LLC – Jeff moved to approve the new contract with N3 LLC, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- C. Ag Water Board report
 - Legal

- Lummi Settlement Update – a response was submitted to the Lummi Tribe on February 29th, a meeting to discuss the response is scheduled for March 18th.
- Media Relations – a report from Gerald was distributed. A recent WFF newsletter was also available as a report on recent public affairs activity.

III. New Business

A. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Ditch maintenance - Fred has tentatively arranged a March 22 meeting including the Corps of Engineers and the County Road Dept.
- Rolf suggested we address the negative consequences of the CREP program. Hindering drainage and reducing streamflows are two negative factors.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results – David distributed sampling results for February and a summary of the 2015 data. Some areas of concern but no clear sources that point us towards implementing the Best Practice Support Program (BPS).
- The letter from the County regarding septic systems was discussed. It contained statements indicating the water quality in Scott Ditch was routinely poor. We don't believe this is accurate. David will check with the Health Dept.
- WID protocol for addressing issues – other WIDs are still reviewing the BPS. It was tabled to the April meeting.
- Steve noted that exemptions due to emergency conditions could help us avoid collecting harmful data in the shellfish beds. David will look into ensuring that farmers are aware of dates when data will be collected and be prepared to request exemptions if emergency conditions exist.

C. Water Quantity - Henry noted the continued discussion at:

- Whatcom Water Supply Coalition
 - Birch Bay Water and Sewer Grant - \$700,000
 - Preparation for water settlement negotiations
 - Groundwater Model phase 4 funding
- Bureau of Reclamation Grant Application – in cooperation with PUD and BBWS
 - Review of Water Rights and Needs for each WID
 - Water Bank

D. Education

- Comprehensive Plan Update – Heather MacKay – review of the January 25 work session – Heather distributed a series of maps and tables and asked for edits and feedback by March 18th. The team is available to construct the maps and data in a manner that meets the WID's needs. The board was challenged to determine what audiences they hope to address (general public, grant reviewers, WID members, and technical audiences) and the team would construct a storymap and add to the WID website the information that would help meet these needs.
- AWB/WID Newsletter – Scott – plan to mail by Mid-March – template, review of priorities and messaging – There are 1,300 landowners in the 6 WIDs. Landon and Ed will work on rewriting the SL Report.
- Website www.southlyndenwid.com

E. Other Items from Commissioners

- David noted the County's Critical Area Review has made some concerning changes. A new system of wetland definitions – adopted the Ecology protocols rather than the NRCS ones – could have a serious effect on farm operations. WID members were encouraged to contact the County and the Planning Commission with our concerns. David is drafting a letter that will be forwarded to the Board.
- The potential of having WIDs establish Mitigation Banks was suggested. The Comprehensive Plan may assist in developing this idea.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

April 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____