

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: March 10, 2015 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Ed Blok                       Jeff De Jong                       Landon Van Dyk  
 Scott Bedlington               Rolf Haugen

Henry Bierlink                   George Boggs                       Fred Likkel  
 Gary Stoyka                      \_\_\_\_\_ Steve Jilk                       Rod Vande Hoef  
 Chris Luerkins                   Michael Issensee                   Jessica Kirkpatrick  
\_\_\_\_\_ Aneka Sweeney              \_\_\_\_\_ Heather McKay               Sherm Polinder

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

### I. Review and Approval of February 10 Minutes

Ed called the meeting to order at 3:06. Jeff moved approval of the February 10<sup>th</sup> minutes, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### II. Old Business

#### A. RFQ for District Services - *select preferred candidate, establish process for contracting*

- Administration – select preferred candidate(s)
- Engineering – select preferred candidate(s)
- Legal – select preferred candidate, may defer contracting to AWB

The board discussed a strategy for selecting the preferred ADMIN contractor. All the WIDs are hoping for a common ADMIN team. The decision was made to defer selection to the first AWB meeting March 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### B. Ag Water District development

- Finalize Interlocal Agreement – Scott moved to have Ed sign the Interlocal once the language over insurance was clarified, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- First meeting of AWB – March 16<sup>th</sup>, noon. All WID members will be invited to participate. All board members were able to make that meeting.
- Scott reported that since he had been appointed the lead representative to the AWB from the Bertrand he needed to be replaced as first alternate for South Lynden. Landon agreed to take this role.
- North Lynden WIDs absence from agreement was noted.
- Questions and concerns about how the AWB would manage access to legal consul by individual farmers. The protocol for this is not clear yet. It should be a high priority for the AWB once it gets established.

#### C. Augmentation Project – Ground water Modeling

- Wells are still being sought for ground water monitoring purposes. Norm Sangha may have a well. Landon may as well. Rolf would like a copy of the modeling project. Henry will provide him a copy.

### III. New Business

#### A. Ditch Maintenance

- The board was challenged to identify sites for mowing, cleaning, spraying, beaver trapping, and dam removal. The State and County road departments are willing to try to address our requests provided we submit them in spring. The board identified a few troubling drainage sites. They will come to the April meeting with more suggestions. DID ditch maintenance should be done in conjunction with the DIDs. How to help manage private ditches outside of DIDs has yet to be addressed.

- George presented examples of the drainage guidance manual and plans that the WCD had helped other DID's and the North Lynden WID develop. He noted that the WCD, along with other partners in the Puget Sound, has participated in a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) which has resulted in \$9 million being made available for water quality, salmon recovery, and farmland protection goals. He encouraged the WID to look at this opportunity as they develop their plans and projects.
- Partnership with DID #5, #20, and #21. Henry reported that the Sumas WID was exploring subsidizing their assessments as these DIDs were doing a portion of the work that the WIDs were created to assist with.

#### B. Water Quality

- Ecology and WSDA outlined their sampling process and the types of water quality testing that have been occurring in other parts of the County. There are **Routine**, Long Term monitoring sites (mainstem, mouth of Kamm, 3 sites on Scott), **Focus area** testing primarily done by DOE and WSDA (Kamm and Scott about to begin), **Bracket testing** where high counts point towards trying to isolate the source, and **Storm Sampling**. The challenge to the SLWID was to help identify additional water quality testing sites, especially on private properties where the agency have limited access.
- Reviewed sampling locations and determined that there was not a great need for more sites. Monitoring on the mainstem at the Guide bridge was the main suggestion. Sherm encouraged bracket testing at the mouths of Kamm and Scott to document the effect these streams are having (or not having) on the mainstem.
- The board desired the opportunity to provide farmers a chance to review more complete reporting of the WQ data with field notes as to any unique circumstances (high bird count, etc.) and incorporating rainfall data over the past 24-36 hours prior to sampling. (seems we should use the Ag Weather Net data for this). The Board wants to have the WID website have a link to this data so farmers can get quick access to as close to real time data as possible and be able to read the data within the context of recent weather and field conditions. Who does this is TBD.
- Monthly review of the water quality data and the conditions that may affect it should be a regular part of the SLWID monthly agenda.
- Fred reported that the Coordinated Resource Management group would be meeting again on March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Gary reported that the State would be making the official announcement of the closure of the Portage Bay shellfish beds March 19<sup>th</sup>. The Lummis are preparing a press release timed to that announcement.

#### C. Development of WID Comprehensive Plan

- Build a consultant team from RFQ responses that can help build a more complete management plan incorporating water supply into the great start already completed by the DID plans.

#### D. Education – response to assessment questions

- Website [www.southlyndenwid.com](http://www.southlyndenwid.com)
- Newsletters – WCD has an article introducing WIDs
- Assessment questions – Henry is happy to redirect them to board members. The board is willing to talk to those who have questions. If Henry gets calls he should take their name and number and direct them to the Board members. Landowners are welcomed to send the Board questions and appear at meetings. But the onus will be on the property owners to show they are getting no services from the WID before the WID may consider removing their property from the 2016 Assessment Role.
- The Laurel WID suggested a letter to the Editor of the local newspapers refreshing landowners on the WIDs and what their goals and potential projects may be.

Henry offered to start drafting a letter with the hope that the WID Presidents could edit and sign.

E. Other Items from Commissioners

- Rolf suggested that part of our mission must be to tell the numerous good stories around ag's efforts to produce safe, quality, low cost food in a manner that contributes positively to water management. Hiring a PR firm to make sure these stories are consistently inserted in media outlets may be something the AWB should consider. Some suggestions are: water quality testing, irrigation efficiencies, food safety actions, nutrient management, jobs for youth, economic contributions, aquifer recharge, flood and stormwater detention, etc.

**IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting**

Scott moved to adjourn at 5:05. Next meeting is April 14.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

**Approved by** \_\_\_\_\_