**South Lynden Watershed Improvement District**

**Minutes for: November 10, 2015** Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

## Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

\_\_x\_\_ Ed Blok \_\_o\_\_ Jeff De Jong \_\_x\_\_ Landon Van Dyk

\_\_x\_\_ Rod Vande Hoef \_\_o\_\_ Rolf Haugen

\_\_x\_\_ Henry Bierlink \_\_\_\_\_ Dale Buys \_\_\_\_\_ Fred Likkel

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

# Consent Agenda

# Review and Approval of October 13 Minutes

1. Financial Report

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | Original Amount | This Month | Total | Available |
| Grant #1 | |  | $0.00 |  |  | $0.00 |
| Fund Balance @ | | 11/1/2015 |  | $24,092.28 |  |  |
| Accounts Payable | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Invoices Submitted for reimbursement | | | |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL Available |  |  |  |  | $24,092.28 |
| Outstanding bills: | |  |  |  |  | $3,180.00 |
|  | Whatcom Farm Friends | | *October* | | $360.00 |  |
|  | N3 |  | *Water Quality testing* | | $320.00 |  |
|  | Agincourt Strategies LLC | | *AWB Media Relations ¼ Dairy Fed.* | | $2,500.00 |  |
| End of Month Balance | |  |  |  |  | **$20,912.28** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 2015 Budget |  | Expended to Date |  | Balance |
| Insurance | | 2,600 |  | 4,622.00 |  | -2,022.00 |
| AWB | | 22,153 |  | 14,120.00 |  | 8,033.00 |
| Projects | | 19,717 |  | 2,119.45 |  | 17,597.55 |
| Administration | | 7,500 |  | 2,680.00 |  | 4,820.00 |
|  |  | **51,970** |  | **23,541.45** |  | **28,428.55** |

Landon moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**II. Old Business**

1. Administrative
   * Rolf and Rod are the only nominees for the expired terms. The Board consists of:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **Term Ends Dec 31,** |
| ROLF HAUGEN | 2018 |
| LANDON VANDYK | 2016 |
| ED BLOK | 2017 |
| JEFF DEJONG | 2017 |
| ROD VANDE HOEF | 2016 |

* + Equalization issues in the South Lynden WID will be heard at 3pm, December 8th.  The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 26th to November 27th.
  + Annexations – Mission Rd. area – Henry will contact Jerry J. to determine the correct parcels to be included. He will also contact Rolf to see if Sam Lidhran would consent to include his parcels. Ed will talk to Jeff Rainey about the South Fork parcels.

1. Ag Water Board report

* Legal
  + North Lynden WID decided to join in 2016.
  + Interviews with potential litigators will be held soon. There is no solid plan to use them at this point but the AWB wants to be ready if defense of our mission and goals is necessary. Ed noted that Steve Rowe would be meeting with the group at 1:30 on the 12th to advise them further.
  + The Environmental Insurance policy being offered at Guide Insurance was discussed. If this proves useful it will have an impact on what the Legal Defense team does.
  + Lummi Settlement Update – Farmers have sent a letter of response to the invitation and are awaiting a response from the Lummis.
* Media Relations
  + Herald columns – addressing water quality and the water tax proposal
  + CAFO Permit – 140 farmers attended the meeting with Ecology Director Maia Bellon.
* Financial

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WID** | **%** | **Insurance** | **Adm/W. Qt.** | **Legal** | **W. Qual/Dr.** | **Public Affairs** | **TOTAL** | **Expended** | **Balance** | **%** |
| Bertrand | 24% | $876 | $3,600 | $6,480 | $3,802 | $10,560 | 25,318 | $18,538.48 | $6,779.12 | 73.2% |
| S. Lynden | 21% | $767 | $3,150 | $5,670 | $3,326 | $9,240 | 22,153 | $16,620.00 | $5,532.90 | 75.0% |
| Drayton | 11% | $402 | $1,650 | $2,970 | $1,742 | $4,840 | 11,604 | $8,620.00 | $2,983.90 | 74.3% |
| Laurel | 13% | $475 | $1,950 | $3,510 | $2,059 | $5,720 | 13,714 | $9,934.91 | $3,778.79 | 72.4% |
| Sumas | 31% | $1,132 | $4,650 | $8,370 | $4,910 | $13,640 | 32,702 | $25,962.06 | $6,739.84 | 79.4% |
|  |  | **3,650** | **15,000** | **27,000** | **15,840** | **44,000** | **105,490** | **$79,675.45** | **$25,814.55** | **75.5%** |

**III. New Business**

1. Ditch and Dike Maintenance
   * identify sites for maintenance by early 2016 to be able to achieve needed permits.
   * Rod noted that the Timon Rd. ditches could use more maintenance. The WID sees no need to duplicate the County’s program but hopes to help them prioritize where they mow and clean. Doug Bajema is operating a ditch maintenance service. He is invited to attend a future meeting or to prepare a flyer the WID could evaluate and determine if they want to make use of this service.
   * Ed noted that Scott Ditch west of Bylsma Rd. must have some ditch elevation problems. Scott is much deeper than it used to be and the “lake” between Bylsma and Hannegan does not drain the way it used to. Ed mentioned there is a gage on the stream at Bylsma. Henry will check if there is historic data.
   * Jake DH will be invited to the December meeting. Frank Corey was also suggested as a resource for this discussion.
2. Water Quality
   * Water quality testing results not available this month as Fred and David are at the WA Dairy Conference.
   * The WID still desires more immediate feedback on the testing results. Fred and the County are asked to make this a priority.
3. Water Quantity
   * Planning Unit – still meeting but County has no more support in the 2016 budget.
   * Out of Stream Users Group – expected to have an initial group meeting in December.
   * Drought Preparation application – Bill and Henry expect to submit to Ecology soon. The Board supports this but has concerns over potential consequences. They asked that Bill think through how this data may be used. Could it set us up to allow the Tribes or environmentalist to outbid farmers for available water rights? There were other concerns as well as they see this as opening a “can of worms”. The Board realizes there is already uncertainty around water use. They want to make sure that any effort we participate in solves more problems than it creates.
4. Update of WID Comprehensive Plan
   * Puget Sound Partnership – Local Integrating Agency – Near Term Action list – Henry distributed an overview of a request for support for WID Plan development funding through the Puget Sound Partnership. This is an early draft of the scope and budget of the project.
   * Comprehensive Plan Update – mapping project – Heather MK submitted a memo describing the opportunity for the WID to make use of some County grant dollars to do some mapping of the WID that could be used in the development of the WID Plan and in identifying areas where ag priorities and environmental priorities may provide opportunities for future projects. Agreeing with this proposal will require some board time at the December meeting and an agreement to get property owners involved when the priority mapping takes place in January/February. The Board agreed to support the project but wondered about the utility of committing so much time, energy, and public money to developing WID Plans. Henry was asked to prepare a short memo describing the potential benefits of preparing these plans.
5. Education –
   * Letter to members – A draft of a letter explain the assessment rate increase was reviewed. Henry will send a revised draft. Board input should be received by November 18th.
   * Website [www.southlyndenwid.com](http://www.southlyndenwid.com)

**IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting –** December 8

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

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