**South Lynden Watershed Improvement District**

**Minutes for: December 8, 2015** Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

## Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

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

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

\_\_x\_\_ Henry Bierlink \_\_x\_\_ Frank Corey \_\_x\_\_ Fred Likkel

\_\_\_\_\_ Jeff Gollen \_\_x\_\_ Heather McKay \_\_x\_\_ Jake De Hoog

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

**Board of Equalization Hearing**

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Ed opened the Hearing. Rolf moved to close the hearing, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.

# Consent Agenda

#  Review and Approval of November 10 Minutes

1. Financial Report and payment of bills

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | Original Amount | This Month | Total | Available |
| Grant #1 |  | $0.00  |  |  | $0.00  |
| Fund Balance @  | 12/1/2015 |  | $33,143.78  |  |  |
| Accounts Payable  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Invoices Submitted for reimbursement |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL Available |  |  |  |  | $33,143.78  |
| Outstanding bills: |  |  |  |  | $6,382.00  |
|  | Whatcom Farm Friends | *Nov Admin, mailing* | $1,242.00 |  |
|  | N3 |  | *Water Quality testing* | $140.00 |  |
|  | Agincourt Strategies LLC | *AWB Media Relations- Oct - Nov* | $5,000.00 |  |
| End of Month Balance |  |  |  |  | **$26,761.78**  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 2015 Budget |  | Expended to Date |  | Balance |
|  Insurance | 2,600 |  | 4,622.00 |  | -2,022.00 |
|  AWB | 22,153 |  | 19,120.00 |  | 3,033.00 |
| Projects | 19,717 |  | 1,939.45 |  | 17,777.55 |
| Administration | 7,500 |  | 3,562.00 |  | 3,938.00 |
|  |  | **51,970** |  | **29,243.45** |  | **22,726.55** |

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

**II. Old Business**

1. Administrative
	* Annexations – Glen Dykstra was added, the Fekkes parcels were not as it was not clear which ones they still owned. Harry Williams and Jeff Rainey are on the agenda for inclusion in 2017.
2. Ag Water Board report
* Legal
	+ Legal Defense Team report – several lawyers have been interviewed and are in discussion with the AWB and WFF. The purpose is to examine where legal risks lie and to prepare a common set of arguments in defense of farming that farms, and their legal teams, could use in potential lawsuits against WID member farms.
	+ Lummi Settlement Update – The AWB will be meeting with Lummi January 7th to further discuss short term and long term agreements. It was noted that under RECA suits compensation does not go to the affected parties (shellfish harvesters) but to the federal govt.
* Media Relations – a positive, careful, simple and fact filled message is what is needed. There is a need for the WIDs to show positive results of their activities to back up this message. Efforts like the LWID water quality monitoring partnership with the Ten Mile group, the NLWID monitoring, and the follow-up being done are just such actions. The board noted that the media efforts attacking farmers on sites like [www.whatsupstream.org](http://www.whatsupstream.org) necessitate constant communication of the facts.
* Financial – a review of AWB finances was conducted.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | $23,000.23 | $2,317.37 | 90.8% |
| South Lynden | 21% | $767 | $3,150 | $5,670 | $3,326 | $9,240 | 22,153 | $19,120.00 | $3,032.90 | 86.3% |
| Drayton | 11% | $402 | $1,650 | $2,970 | $1,742 | $4,840 | 11,604 | $9,120.00 | $2,483.90 | 78.6% |
| Laurel | 13% | $475 | $1,950 | $3,510 | $2,059 | $5,720 | 13,714 | $12,276.94 | $1,436.76 | 89.5% |
| Sumas | 31% | $1,132 | $4,650 | $8,370 | $4,910 | $13,640 | 32,702 | $23,748.88 | $8,953.02 | 72.6% |
| BUDGET |  | **3,650** | **15,000** | **27,000** | **15,840** | **44,000** | **105,490** | **$87,266.05** | **$18,223.95** | **82.7%** |
| SPENT | 711.96 | 3,285.00 | 16,080.00 | 21,639.71 | 12,320.00 | 33,229.38 | 87,266.05 |  |  |  |
| REMAINING |  | 365.00 | -1,080.00 | 5,360.29 | 3,520.00 | 10,770.62 | 18,223.95 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **WID** | **May-15** | **June-15** | **July-15** | **Aug-15** | **Sep-15** | **Oct-15** | **Nov-15** | **Dec-15** |  |  |
| Bertrand |  |  | $16,680.23 |  |  |  | $1,560.00 | $4,760.00 |  |  |
| South Lynden | $3,000.00 |  |  |  | $6,360.00 | $4,760.00 |  | $5,000.00 |  |  |
| Drayton |  | $3,120.00 |  |  | $3,000.00 |  | $3,000.00 |  |  |  |
| Laurel | $2,289.91 | $1,760.00 |  |  | $5,885.00 |  |  | $2,342.03 |  |  |
| Sumas | $1,760.00 | $3,000.00 |  |  | $10,766.53 | $5,302.35 | $1,760.00 | $1,160.00 |  |  |
|  | **$7,049.91** | **$7,880.00** | **$16,680.23** | **$0.00** | **$26,011.53** | **$10,062.35** | **$6,320.00** | **$13,262.03** |  |  |

**III. New Business**

1. Ditch & Dike Maintenance
	* Ditch maintenance – Sites needing cleaning noted were Hannegan ditch, Timon ditch, and Bylsma ditch.
	* Scott Ditch data – Frank noted that the 5 year permit for cleaning expired in August. He felt it could be renewed with some effort. A floodgate on Scott would be of benefit. The Board discussed requesting a study on the costs and benefits of placing a seasonal floodgate on Scott to address the spring flooding issues.
2. Water Quality
	* Water quality testing results – Fred distributed a summary of the data over the past three months. The Board discussed if there were any trends or clear concerns that required follow-up. E Coli and enterococci analysis are of interest to the board.
	* Fred has not heard if the request to Ecology for including E Coli and enterococci analysis has been approved in the QAPP.
3. Water Quantity
	* Planning Unit – The PU plans to be self - facilitated in 2016. The County has approved another $40k for PU functions in 2016 but will require a clear budget and PU consensus on how these dollars are spent.
	* Out of Stream Users Group – Dec. 17th meeting initial meeting of the staffs of these entities – AWB, PUD, Water Districts, Water Associations, Small Cities, Bellingham, and Whatcom County.
	* Drought Preparation application – still in progress under Bill and Henry’s leadership.
4. Education
	* Comprehensive Plan Update – Heather MacKay – short work session – Heather provided an overview of the work accomplished in the Ag Watershed Project and how the next steps will be helpful to the development of the WID Comprehensive Plan. An MOA concerning mutual expectations will be developed between the WID and the County for the January Board meeting. An extended work session was scheduled for January 25th, 1-4pm. The Board is encouraged to think of knowledgeable people who might participate in the mapping project. Jake De Hoog was invited to participate.
	* Website [www.southlyndenwid.com](http://www.southlyndenwid.com)

**IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting**

January 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

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