

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 14, 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 _____ Dale Buys Fred Likkel
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of March 10 Minutes
- B. Financial Report

	<u>Original</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>Available</u>
Grant #1	\$0.00			\$0.00
Grant #2	\$0.00			\$0.00
Fund Balance @ 4/1/2015		\$2,355.82		
Accounts Receivable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$2,355.82
Outstanding bills:				\$0.00
Whatcom Farm Friends				
N3				
End of Month Balance				\$2,355.82

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

II. Old Business

A. Contracts for District Services

- Administration - WFF
- Water Quality/Drainage - Fred made clear that most of the N3 work would be funded by the AWB. .
- Jeff moved to approve the contracts as drafted, Landon seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Ag Water District

- Legal – AWB has contracted legal support for them, member WIDs, and landowners within these WIDs.
- Media relations – Farm Friends is sponsoring a crisis management workshop. AWB is exploring ideas and projects that will help present a reasoned ag perspective on timely issues. The Board recognized that farming is under attack by some sectors and that they would have no difficulty applying some of their funds towards media and crisis responses.
- Budget – AWB is considering an Annual budget of just under \$100k. \$20k each for admin and water quality/drainage, \$36k for legal, and \$12-15k for countywide projects.
- Rolf expressed a desire to be sure that AWB and all WID projects are well publicized so that the community sees the efforts farmers are making for water management. “Every time you do a project you sell the project”. He noted that farmers most often can rightly claim to be “keepers of the earth” and that we ought not be shy about letting that be known. Connecting to the “eat Local” idea is another logical place for ag to tell a compellingly positive story.

III. New Business

A. Ditch and Dike Maintenance

- Fred distributed a stream maintenance guide that describes streams/ditches in three categories – streams, modified watercourses, and ditches. Permits are needed for the first two, not for the ditches.
- The board assumes most private ditches will be maintained by the landowners. If permits are needed the WID should help obtain them.
- Mitigation requests for drainage maintenance need to be clearly demonstrated as legally required and tied to a “harm” that our activities create. There needs to be grounds for denying a permit.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results were discussed. Focusing on E Coli bacteria rather than just fecal coliform was again emphasized.
- More testing sites were discussed. Landon moved to request Ecology to add every other week E Coli testing to their monitoring at 3 sites in Scott (Nolte, Thiel, and Bylsma) and 2 sites in Kamm. The WID would pay for the additional costs for the next three months at which a review of the data and sampling schedule and locations would take place. Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Ed will contact WSDA to ask about their support for this additional monitoring.
- Fred was asked to email testing results to the board as soon as they are available. Tracking results in a spreadsheet was desired.
- April 17th CRM meeting - Fred asked who would be available to attend the April 17th CRM meeting, 10 am to 12:30.

C. Update of WID Comprehensive Plan

- Potential grant applications – An outline of what is needed in a plan and a team prepped to work on developing and implementing a plan is crucial. Henry is working to develop that team and plan for WID consideration.
- Possible Interlocal Agreement with WCD – Will be considered as the partners better define their respective roles.
- Henry was asked to send the Board an outline of what he expected to be included in this plan. A meeting with the prospective contractors who would work on the Plan was requested. A rough outline for a Management Plan would be . . .

I. *Introduction*

II. *Baseline Conditions/Issues*

- Hydrology*
- Water Use/Rights*
 - Inventory of existing water rights*
 - Inventory of water uses*
- Water Quality*
- Drainage System*
- Flood and Storm water management*
- Fish and Wildlife*

III. *Action Plan*

- Hydrology*
- Water Use/Rights*
 - Water budget – understand surface water model results*
 - Link to groundwater modeling project*
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- Water Quality*
 - Water quality monitoring*
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- Drainage System*
 - DID Management Plans*
- Flood and Storm water management*

f. Fish and Wildlife

D. Education

- Website www.southlyndenwid.com - Henry requested some latitude in billing over the next months as the enhanced website is put into place. His sense is that there will be some hours charged by WFF on behalf of their website designer. This should be understood as an investment in communications both for WID members and for an external audience that wants to have confidence in what we are doing

E. Other Items from Commissioners

- Flood management was briefly discussed. The potential of partnerships between the WIDs and the Flood Management board is desirable but probably a few years off.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

May 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____