

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: May 24, 2016 Special Meeting, 4 pm – 5 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

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

Henry Bierlink                       Sherm Polinder                       Jim Bucknell  
 Bill Clarke                       Steve Jilk                       Kasey Cykler  
x = present                      o = absent with notice                      t = teleconference

### I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of April 12 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1	\$0.00			\$0.00
Fund Balance @ 4/1/2016		\$12,138.93		
Prior Month Expenses		\$1,448.00		
Assessments Received		\$23,672.54		
Fund Balance @ 5/1/2016		\$34,363.47		
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$34,363.47
Outstanding bills:				\$6,698.00
Ag Water Board		<i>April contract with WFF</i>	\$6,250.00	
N3		<i>April Water Quality testing</i>	\$448.00	
<b>End of Month Balance</b>				<b>\$27,665.47</b>

	<u>2016 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	45,758	9,610.00	36,148.00
Projects	25,000	2,292.00	22,708.00
Adm/Insurance	7,188	1,200.00	5,988.00
	<b>77,946</b>	<b>13,102.00</b>	<b>64,844.00</b>

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

### II. New Business

#### A. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results – Fred and David submitted a summary of recent monitoring results which were generally encouraging. The only consistent area of concern was the Strandell area.
- Report on landowner contacts – no contacts this month.

#### B. Water Quantity

- Henry reported that Interruptible rights on Nooksack already curtailed
- Board was presented a proposal from RH2 that was requested by the WID to collect and analyze water right data that had the potential for State grant support. But this support was not assured or likely to be timely for this summer. The Board was confronted with the question of how much can the WID afford to spend on getting the project rolling.
- Other potential funding sources for this project included the PUD and the Bureau of Reclamation grant that had been applied for.
- Discussion with Bill Clarke, Jim Bucknell of RH2 - Bill traced the history of this proposed project and the progress and roadblocks we experience last summer

when the surface rights were curtailed. Jim reported that the data on water rights was available on the DOE website. Henry agreed but noted that working with the database was not a simple task and that some level of understanding of the water right process was needed to get an accurate picture. In the past he has relied on groups like RH2 for that and would prefer to do so for this effort.

- The Board was uneasy with initiating review of existing water rights, before understanding the level of available information, how information could be used, and how an exchange would be structured. They also expressed concern regarding if water was found to be available for a seasonal transfer, how would the decision be made regarding who would get access to the water and who would not?The Board asked Henry to do a preliminary search of the water rights in the WID and gather maps where the board and other landowners could review the rights and match paper rights to current uses. This could be done in future board meetings or work sessions.
- Other sources of water were also discussed. Bellingham has a significant water right on the Middle Fork that would be left in the stream for diversion by the WID. The PUD has a large irrigation right at Trigg Road that may also be available if they were able to move the diversion upstream. Both these ideas have legal and political constraints that need to be addressed. Bill and Henry will continue to explore their potential.

C. Education

- Report on Mapping Project – final report from County team provided, link to final draft forthcoming – needs WID review before published
- Website [www.southlyndenwid.com](http://www.southlyndenwid.com)

### **III. Adjournment/Next Meeting**

June 14

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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