

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 13, 2015 Meeting, 3 pm – 5 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Blok	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff De Jong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landon Van Dyk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Bedlington	<input type="checkbox"/> # Rolf Haugen	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dwayne Molendyk	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Vande Hoef
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Hawley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Noteboom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jake De Hoog
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather McKay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sherm Polinder

x = present o = absent with notice # = participating via teleconference

Ed called the meeting to order at 3:03.

I. Review and Approval of December 9 Minutes

Scott moved to approve the December 9th minutes, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Contract with ADC – Henry reviewed the terms. Scott moved to approve the contract for December 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.

B. Agent to receive Claims designation requirement - Enduris request that an Agent be designated and recorded at the County. Jeff moved to approve the designation of Farm Friends as the Agent, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.

C. Ag Water District development

- Boundary Review Board approval was obtained
- Henry reported that Bill had discovered that Ecology would have problems with using the Board of Joint Control statute in RCW 87.80. The lack of ownership of specific water rights will present challenges with using this statute to form a cooperative council. Bill's draft Interlocal Agreement builds on RCW 39.34 instead.
- Interlocal Agreement draft was reviewed with a request to have comments prior to the next board meeting in February. Henry will make the edits discussed and circulate a new draft which includes ideas from other WID boards as well.
- A review of the Mission and Goals developed at the December 17th WID Board training and strategic plan development session was reviewed as well as the Timeline for getting the Joint Board formed by spring.
- Next steps are to come back to the February meeting with a more refined package that all the WIDs are nearly agreed to. At that point we will designate representatives to the Board.

D. Review of Water Exchange Forum – January 8th

Henry provided a program to review that outlined the agenda and presenters. There was optimism that some form of water exchange would be of benefit here. Henry will send a link to the video of the forum as soon as it is available.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPwS39et7TQ>

III. New Business

- A. DID Report – Ed asked commissioners from the three DID's in the WID to report on what they are doing and where they might welcome help.
1. DID #20 - Kamm – Dwayne reported that the only actions that seem to be working was a spray program and a boat constructed by Burt De Groot that could be used to stir up sediment buildups. They are limited by not having a floodgate at the mouth so a substantial amount of river water backs up into their system during storm events leading to more sediment buildup. Beaver activity is a big problem as well. Areas that are never able to be drained were dry and farmed 40 years ago. Annual budget is approximately \$8-9K.
 2. DID #5 - Cougar Creek – Roger noted that spraying ditches in peat areas created more harm than good. They have been removing the milfoil buildup from Wiser Lake with a backhoe at least once a year. Beavers are a problem. Annual budget is \$20-25K.
 3. DID #21 - Scott Ditch - Jake reported that two areas provide most of their challenges – Bylsma Road and Fountain Lake to Van Dyk Road. They do some spraying. Ed noted that digging with a clamshell was counterproductive in the area near the mouth. A survey has recently been completed. Annual budgets are between \$7.5 and \$15k.

It was noted that fish presence is the driving factor in the drainage challenges. Farmers would feel better about incurring these costs if they knew that fish habitat and numbers were actually improving. Pushback on WDFW requirements will continue unless there is an improved sense of partnership with other elements of the fish management equation.

- B. Development of WID Comprehensive Plan - Henry noted that one of the first activities the Bertrand and North Lynden WIDs took was to prepare a Management Plan that documents the current conditions and outlines the issues that need attention and a plan to address them. The general outline for a Plan is something like . . .
- I. Introduction
 - II. Baseline Conditions/Issues
 - a. Hydrology
 - b. Water Use/Rights
 - c. Water Quality
 - d. Drainage System
 - e. Flood and Storm water management
 - f. Fish and Wildlife
 - III. Action Plan
 - a. Hydrology
 - b. Water Use/Rights
 - i. Water budget – understand surface water model results
 - ii. Link to groundwater modeling project
 - iii.
 - c. Water Quality
 - i. Water quality monitoring
 - ii.
 - d. Drainage System
 - i. DID Management Plans
 - e. Flood and Storm water management
 - f. Fish and Wildlife

The board questioned how to get started on this. Henry offered to research the potential of getting \$3-4k applied to each WID to gather the available data and begin building the management plan.

- C. Water Quality – Fred was asked to outline the concerns over fecal coliforms and suggest some ideas that the WID might consider. He suspects that some complicating factors in the growing fecal counts may be a lack of maintenance in the drainage system and changing rainfall patterns. Large rain events in Spring following a period of manure applications cause water backup into fields that are not adequately drained. Another concern is that fecal tests include a klebsiella bacterium which is sourced in decomposing wood products. He would like to see more E-Coli testing which would point to warm blooded animals. Fred presented some water quality testing numbers for the WID to consider. The idea of jointing testing with the County, Ecology, and WSDA was favored with the WID investing in e-coli tests and doing followup tests where data indicates there are routine issues.

Henry reported that the Portage Bay Shellfish Protection District had requested to attend the February WID meeting to discuss the Pollution Identification and Correction Program (PIC) that they are advancing. We will check with them to see if this should be a WID specific discussion or if this would better occur with a meeting of numerous WIDs in the Nooksack system.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Ed adjourned the meeting at 5:00 the next meeting is February 10th.