

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 9, 2018 Meeting, 1pm – 3pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

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

Henry Bierlink Randy Honcoop Erika Douglas
 David Haggith Gary Stoyka Meg Harris
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>11/1/2017</u>	<u>Last Month</u>	<u>12/1/2017</u>	<u>ANNUAL TOTAL</u>
2017 Assessments Received		\$22,948.76		\$78,808.59
Fund Balance	\$58,205.95		\$70,098.02	
Beginning Year Balance			\$48,582.28	
Outstanding bills:				\$5,105.30
Ag Water Board <i>Jan AWB</i>			\$4,433.30	
N3 <i>Water Quality testing</i>			\$672.00	
Exact Scientific <i>DNA study</i>			\$9,500.00	
End of Month Balance				\$64,992.72
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	53,216	53,216.04		-0.04
Projects	21,109	20,795.48	\$0.00	313.52
Insurance/Adm	4,191	2,994.67		1,196.33
	78,516	77,006.19	\$0.00	1,509.81

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

II. Administrative

- a. Election of Chair for 2018 – Ed expressed a desire to no longer chair the WID. Rod nominated Landon to take on this responsibility, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Audit Review – a brief discussion of what the Audit covered and the Audit results was held. Ed noted he had talked to the Auditor and all seems to be in order.
- c. Review Priority Issue and Activity lists – Develop 2018 Action priorities –
 1. Work with laboratories on DNA sequencing to better inform water quality decision making
 2. Continue Water quality testing
 3. Work with AWB to resolve the water supply challenge
 4. Build on the 5-year drainage permit to accomplish improved drainage

Landon suggested we review portions of the Plan each meeting. He'd like to rethink our water quality monitoring strategy next month.

III. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – generally good.
- b. Publicizing Results – the new interactive map of water quality monitoring by numerous organizations was displayed. A question of whether the SLWIDs numbers should be published was raised and discussed.
- c. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – WCD reported that there are three units in service (*River at PUD and Lynden intake, and Fishtrap at LCHS*) and three on the

way. The next two will be installed on Double Ditch at the border and Bertrand at Rathbone. The third may be installed as a semi portable unit on a trailer with its own water and power source as well as security. Turbidity has been a complicating factor in providing reliable readings. There were concerns that the ZAP data is restricted and yet environmental lawyers were likely able to get it. It could be used against farmers even when we don't have the data. Meg and Erika felt there was enough protection in this system as it is still in a testing mode and the data could not be relied upon.

- d. South Lynden source tracking project – David noted the data analysis would be done in January. Results are expected to be reported at the SLWID's February meeting.

IV. Water Supply

- a. Hirst/Foster fix bills – Bertrand is proposed as a pilot project in the “Foster Fix” bill.
- b. Review and discuss “Next Steps” draft from AWB Board – The board was presented with some background on how the Watershed Management Board has developed and what opportunity there is to help them focus on some tangible tasks in the near future. The AWB's proposal to engage in developing agreements through drainage based management plans is one of the major ideas being considered. Other tasks include water quantity and quality monitoring, further development of the surface and groundwater models and budgets, and a basin-wide Water Supply Plan.

AWB has tentatively approved the “Next Steps” proposal but needs to vet it with each WID before taking it to a broader audience. The WIDs are asked to agree with continuing work on developing the proposal and for ideas to make it better. SLWID discussion raised numerous questions with much of the discussion about how the agreements reached in the pilots would set a template for what agreements would be expected in other drainages. In particular, the idea of water banks raised concerns. Water banks imply that some farmers will be paying for water and the board did not want to establish that precedent.

The Board agreed to keep the dialogue going with the AWB which intends to hold several Strategy Development Sessions between their quarterly board meetings. All WID commissioners are encouraged to participate. The next session is scheduled for 1pm on January 30th.

- c. Support from State via \$450k budget request – The AWB, PUD, and Whatcom County request for State assistance in implementing the WRIA #1 Management Plan is likely to be funded from an allocation to Ecology coming out of the Hirst/Foster fix bills being debated. This would provide for much of the expense of implementing the drainage based management concept.

V. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Fish/Flood meeting – Fred provide notes that summarized the discussion between farmers and Ned Currance (Nooksack) and Alan Chapman (Lummi). All agreed it was a valuable exchange of information. Fish runs are down 25% from the time when they were listed. Concerns are placed more upstream and in the ocean than in the lower watershed. But we can do something and the farmers agree we need to do our part.
- b. Ditch maintenance – the board toured the entire WID this fall looking for areas where we'd want to address drainage concerns. The 5-year permit is in place. Specific projects need to be identified by this spring.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.southlyndenwid.com
- b. Educational Forums – The WCD reminded the board of two upcoming educational events – the Manure Management Training on January 10th and the Small Farm Expo on February 24th.

VII. Ag Water Board

- a. Winter newsletter – A newsletter is planned in February – the SLWID report should include the 5-year drainage permit, drainage work, the DNA study, water quality monitoring, and developing the Comp Plan.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

February 13

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

Draft of WID Report

The South Lynden WID's major project in 2017 was the pilot study in the Scott Ditch area where we are trying new technology to isolate fecal coliform sources through DNA. Should this technology prove effective we will combine this work with our ongoing water quality monitoring better learn the areas of water quality risk. The WID leaders and the farmers want to know so that: 1) we can isolate problems in order to fix them, and 2) we don't continue to assume problems that likely don't exist. The SLWID also to be strategic about planning drainage improvement projects that will be streamlined by the 5-year drainage permit. We plan to install mitigation for drainage work in areas where habitat improvements or culvert replacements are most beneficial for fish habitat. The SLWID also completed a Comprehensive Plan. It can be found @ www.southlyndenwid.com.