

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District
Minutes for: February 10, 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 checked="" 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"/> Jeff Gollen	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Vande Hoef
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Bowler	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Noteboom	<input 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

I. Review and Approval of January 13 Minutes

Jeff moved to approve the January 13th minutes, Landon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

- A. Open Meetings Act Training – required by Legislature, complete on-line training and bring copy of certificate for our files -

<http://agr.wa.gov/Portals/CommFair/OPMA.aspx>

Henry reminded the board that we need these on file. A future Audit will cite us for non-conformance.

- B. RFQ issued for: Administration, Engineering, Legal

- A RFQ posted in the Lynden Tribune will develop a list of potential contractors to meet admin, legal, and engineering needs. The Bertrand WID will maintain the list and the South Lynden WID will be able to piggyback on that list as elaborated in the Interlocal Agreement that is being developed.
- Select admin from list at March meeting. Legal will likely be developed by the AG Water Board. Engineering help will be generated as they develop.
- There was a question about who should respond to the RFQ. Do we need a response if we hire a company to spray ditches once a year? Henry will double check on this and if there is maximum dollar amount we can spend without having to go through the contracting process.

- C. Ag Water District development

- Interlocal Agreement draft 3, Suggest final edits by the 25th
- Discuss representatives to Ag Water Board (AWB)
 - Landon moved to have the President serve as the representative, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously. Consensus was to have Vice-Pres. Scott serve as first alternate and Jeff, Rolf and Landon share second alternates.
- To be ratified by all WIDs in March meetings
- First meeting of AWB - week of March 30th

III. New Business

- A. Ditch Maintenance

- Spray program – cost is under \$2k for road ditches in the NLWID
- Mowing – potential cooperation with County, State
 - Jeff Gollen and Andy Bowler were present to discuss the County’s perspectives on road ditch maintenance and potential partnerships with the WIDs. Planning far enough ahead to get the needed permits and in the workplan was the clear need. Rolf asked if the WIDs could get blanket

permits over numerous years. This is possible so long as a plan is in place, cleaning occurs with best management practices, and mitigation is identified when needed. Easement and Encroachment permits are always needed along roadways. Hydraulic permits are needed wherever fish habitat is present. Jeff will get us some ideas about ditch cleaning, moving, and spraying costs. He suggested farmers could let him know directly when there are problem drainage areas along county roads (676-6759) but an even more effective approach would be for the WID to provide them a list of needs in early spring so that they could plan and permit accordingly. The WID intends to provide this at the March meeting. Henry was asked to get a clear map where the board could mark up locations. Getting the DIDs involved in this was also encouraged.

B. Water Quality

- Discussion on meeting organized by Dairy Federation and North Lynden WID. Jeff, Rod, and Fred reported on the meeting to the rest of the board. They reviewed the agenda which focused on the Pollution Identification and Correction program that was developed by the Portage Bay Shellfish Committee and adopted by the County. The PIC program closely parallels the ideas of the Conservation Resource Management program that guides the Conservation Districts. The group universally felt there was need for better identification of the problem and communication about monitoring results.
- Fred expressed the frustrations of the dairy farmers as they watch fecal counts increase. They observe that we now have less cows and more regulatory pressure and yet counts are increasing. Others changes they note include more people, more berries, more woody vegetation, more birds, and deteriorating drainage.
- Laurel WID suggests that there be a consensus that the developing AWB would be a good spot for developing and implementing a strategy to address this problem among farmers. But there also was a recognition that some immediate steps/actions needed to be taken to alleviate regulatory and legal risks. Jeff moved to “commit the SLWID’s involvement with the County and Conservation District in the CRM program in order to aggressively support a positive response to the fecal coliform challenge”, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Fred suggested that the WID meet with County in the near future to determine a unified approach to water quality testing. Setting what type of tests to be taken, strategic locations for monitoring, and ensuring confidence in testing protocols should be on the agenda.

C. Development of WID Comprehensive Plan - Build a consultant team from RFQ responses. Needed help is in hydrology, fish biology, and report editing. Water quality testing could be another item of need.

D. Groundwater Modeling

- Looking for monitoring wells – install data loggers for 2 years
 - get suggestions to Henry in the next two weeks
 - the lack of many wells in the Scott drainage was noted
 - Rod may have some wells in the Kamm
- Pump test sites – this spring

E. Education

- Conservation District newsletter
- Web site established www.southlyndenwid.com
- Content like pictures, reports, etc. requested to improve the site

F. Other Items from Board

- Rolf expressed a need to better understand where our rights actually are before we negotiate on any of these issues. He felt that far too often we start in a conciliatory position because we are unsure of what the laws actually says. The board felt that all the WIDs would be well served by identifying key areas of uncertainty as to our legal responsibilities and ask Bill Clarke to meet with the WIDs this fall to discuss this. We will start by building the list of key questions such as:
 - Do we have to mitigate for drainage maintenance?
 - What can qualify as mitigation? Is cleaning in itself improvement in fish passage and habitat?
 - More questions ?????
- Sherm asked about the gravel removal project which USGS is conducting. It is a 2 year project that is assumed to be underway. Combating the sentiment that gravel removal has no effect on drainage was emphasized.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Scott moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:05. The next meeting will be March 10.