**South Lynden Watershed Improvement District**

**Minutes for: October 13, 2015** Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

## Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

\_\_x\_\_ Ed Blok \_\_x\_\_ Jeff De Jong \_\_x\_\_ Landon Van Dyk

\_\_x\_\_ Rod Vande Hoef \_\_\_\_\_ Rolf Haugen

\_\_x\_\_ Henry Bierlink \_\_\_\_\_ Dale Buys \_\_\_\_\_ Fred Likkel

\_\_\_\_\_ Jeff Gollen \_\_\_\_\_ Steve Jilk \_\_\_\_\_ Scott Bedlington

\_\_\_\_\_ Andy Bowler \_\_x\_\_ David Haggith \_\_\_\_\_ Jake De Hoog

\_\_\_\_\_ Aneka Sweeney \_\_x\_\_ Heather MacKay \_\_x\_\_ Sherm Polinder

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

# Consent Agenda

# Review and Approval of September 8 Minutes

1. Financial Report –

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | Original Amount | | This Month | Total | Available |
| Grant #1 | |  | $0.00 | |  |  | $0.00 |
| Grant #2 | |  | $0.00 | |  |  | $0.00 |
| Fund Balance @ | | 10/1/2015 |  | | $10,404.27 |  |  |
| Accounts Payable | |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Invoices Submitted for reimbursement | | | | |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL Available |  | |  |  |  | $10,404.27 |
| Outstanding bills: | |  | |  |  |  | $5,280.00 |
|  | Whatcom Farm Friends | | | *September* | | $360.00 |  |
|  | N3 |  | | *Water Quality testing* | | $160.00 |  |
|  | N3 |  | | *Ag Water Board water quality* | | $1,760.00 |  |
|  | Clarke Law |  | | *Ag Water Board legal* | | $3,000.00 |  |
| End of Month Balance | |  | |  |  |  | **$5,124.27** |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 2015 Budget | |  | Expended to Date |  | Balance |
| Insurance | | 2,600 | |  | 4,622.00 |  | -2,022.00 |
| AWB | | 22,153 | |  | 14,120.00 |  | 8,033.00 |
| Projects | | 19,717 | |  | 1,799.45 |  | 17,917.55 |
| Administration | | 7,500 | |  | 2,320.00 |  | 5,180.00 |
|  |  | **51,970** | |  | **22,861.45** |  | **29,108.55** |

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

**II. Old Business**

1. Administrative
   * Consider annexation of additional acres – Rod will check with Fekkes and Dykstra about the Mission Road area. Rolf will present the opportunity to join the WID to the berry farmers west of the River. The board will gather signatures from those wishing to be annexed. Jeff will talk with Jeff Rainey about the wishes of the South Fork Valley and Harry Williams about the Lawrence area. Henry asked for annexation petitions to be in the office by the 26th.
   * prepare for nominations for directors - Landon moved to nominate Rolf and Rod to new terms, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE** – *all Watershed Improvement Districts*

*Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:*

*1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – three positions in Bertrand, one in Drayton, one in Laurel, two in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o’clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.*

*2) Inspect the 2016 Assessment Role and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization.  Equalization issues in the Bertrand will be heard at 2pm, December 1st, for Drayton at 3pm, December 15th, for Laurel at 10am, December 14th, for North Lynden at 10am, December 15th, for South Lynden at 3pm, December 8th, and for Sumas at 1pm, December 8th, all at the District’s office.  The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 26th to November 27th.*

*Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts’ offices located at 1796 Front Street, Lynden.*

Public Notice will be published in Lynden Tribune October 14, 21, 28

* 2016 Budget preparation – The draft budget was reviewed. The need for more funding for Legal Defense was noted. The board determined to insert a new line under the Project Budget for Legal Defense which may be added to the AWB budget in the future.
* Establish 2016 Assessment Rate – Rod moved to set the 2016 Assessment rate at $6/acre and the budget at $92,815, Landon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OPERATIONS** |  |  | $7,000 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **AG WATER BOARD** |  |  | $22,625 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **PROJECTS** |  |  | $45,000 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **CONTINGENCY** |  |  | $3,321 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL BUDGET** |  |  | **$77,946** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **INCOME** |  |  |  |
| 12,991 | @ | $6 | **$77,946** |

* Establish 2016 Assessment Role – Landon moved to establish the Assessment Role consisting of the parcels from 2015 plus any new parcels signed up prior to October 26th, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

1. Ag Water Board report - The ag community had been working on the creation of Whatcom Family Farmers and their initial efforts to make the CAFO permit more workable and to respond to the Lummi’s water settlement ideas. There is a strong push back against the Lummi’s plan to sue several farmers over water quality violations. Ag has never before been so united.

**III. New Business**

1. Ditch and Dike Maintenance
   * identify sites for maintenance – the board set a goal of trying to identify maintenance projects, in cooperation with the DID’s and Diking Districts by the first of the year.
   * Flood Board – Floodplains by Design – Jeff explained that the Flood Advisory Board had no money for projects without looking towards outside grants. The Floodplains by Design Program is a necessary ingredient to be able to access State and federal funds. Jeff noted the Flood Tax brings in approx.. $3.5 million annually. It has commitments of $1 million to the County’s stormwater program, $1.5 million to the County’s Clean Water Program, and $1.2 million to administrative costs. So the fund is actually going backwards and in danger of eating into the $5 million set aside for emergency flood events. How the WIDs might be able to positively interact with flood management is worth considering.
2. Water Quality
   * Water quality testing results – David presented the most recent water quality data. Upper Scott has been more of a challenge than other areas recently.
3. Water Quantity
   * Planning Unit – appears the County is not funding the effort in 2016.
   * Out of Stream Users Group – PUD is organizing water users into a new group. We hope to have an initial meeting this fall.
   * Drought Preparation application – Bill and Henry are waiting for a signal from Ecology on when and how to proceed with the application.
4. Update of WID Comprehensive Plan
   * Heather MK outlined the purpose and achievements of the County’s Ag Watershed project. The goals include elevating farmers land and water goals to a level on par with ecosystem goals. The County is seeking an amendment to a State grant that would direct this project towards more mapping that the WIDs could incorporate into their plans. Jeff moved to support the County’s grant amendment request, Landon seconded, motion carried unanimously. Henry will draft a letter for Ed’s signature.
5. Education –
   * Website [www.southlyndenwid.com](http://www.southlyndenwid.com)
   * The Board asked Henry to draft a letter to parcel owners explaining the purpose of the assessment increase. Pointing to accomplishments and future needs is important to communicate. Note the looming lawsuits and the numerous reports of pipes in the River this summer. The board will review prior to sending out in November.
6. Other Items from Commissioners

**IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting –** November 10th

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

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