

# South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: April 10, 2018 Meeting, 1pm – 3pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

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

Henry Bierlink                      \_\_\_\_\_ Dale Buys                       Fred Likkel  
 Meg Harris                       Steve Jilk                       Chuck Lindsay  
 David Haggith                       Sherm Polinder

*x = present*

*o = absent with notice*

*t = teleconference*

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of March 13 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

*Rod moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Ed seconded, motion carried unanimously*

### II. Ag Water Board

- a. AWB “Next Steps” proposal
  - i. Vet with Lummi - Present as logical progression of the process they outlined in 2015. Greg Ebe is leading the connection with Lummi.
  - ii. Emphasis on implementing projects – demonstrate our commitments – including the surface to ground water conversion project opportunities in ESB 6091.
  - iii. Goal of having Lummi and AWB advance Drainage Based Management at the Watershed Management Board in Fall.
- b. Foster Task Force pilot program – opportunity for all WID members with a surface water right that you would consider moving to groundwater.
  - i. Need a list of applicants by June 1
  - ii. Would apply for funds to cover water right transfer processing and cost share
  - iii. R & E and AESI assisting in locating likely candidates. Henry referred to the maps provided by AESI. Our goal is to identify several (2-4) potential surface water rights that might be converted to a groundwater source.

Purposes of the project are:

1. Demonstrate our commitment to improve stream flows
2. Assist farmers with getting water rights solidified and infrastructure updated.
3. Make sure we don’t lose water rights because of nonuse or underuse.

Priority projects will be:

1. Upstream
2. Significant volume
3. An interested party with few complications.

WID board was encouraged to study the maps and help identify potential projects meeting these criteria. We would like to keep soliciting interest in this type of a project as we expect there will be more opportunities in future years.

- c. Spring Workshop on water right tools – likely early June.
- d. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update – Ecology is trying to provide a clear definition of “net ecological benefit”, a requirement in the ESB 6091 legislation. There will be a need for mitigating projects and ag in the best place to provide them.
- e. Gravel pit study – Steve Jilk and Chuck Lindsay were present to participate in a discussion over off-river storage ideas. The PUD has been exploring storage possibilities for decades. Chuck has been involved in many of the studies. The focus of this discussion was the area south of Everson including the gravel pits. Potential benefits could be to the Scott Ditch area and the Four Mile and Ten Mile Creeks. The idea of returning water to the River to

address the provisional water rights on the River was also discussed. Ed moved the SLWID look into a partnership with the PUD to explore the issues surrounding developing storage options in the area, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously. The board is interested in looking at both the gravel pits and the river bottom land as storage options.

We would need to answer:

- i. What are the water needs within our district?
- ii. What are the storage options?
- iii. How much storage could we develop?
- iv. At what cost?
- v. What are the regulatory hurdles?
- vi. What might be the impact on drainage in the area?

### **III. Drainage/Habitat**

- a. Ditch maintenance – *not addressed*
  - Vegetation in the ditch at Abbot and Hannegan
  - Thiel Road culvert
  - Noon from Van Dyk north
- b. Flood- FLIP – a meeting to discuss the results of the sediment study will be held Thursday.

### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – results look positive
- b. South Lynden source tracking project report – Ryan and Kent presented more information on the samples taken last fall. They recommended an adjustment to the study which called for another month of sampling and analysis. Rolf moved to adjust the study scope to test the 5 monitoring sites on Scott Ditch and samples from 3 lagoons using Ryan and David's discretion, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- c. Joint Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District Advisory meeting – 25th

### **V. Education/Communications**

- a. Website - [www.southlyndenwid.com](http://www.southlyndenwid.com)
- b. E-Newsletter
- c. WFF – REAL campaign
- d. First Salmon Ceremony will be on May 17, 2018 from 10:00 to 2:00

### **VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

June 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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