

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: December 15, 2015 Meeting, 10am – Noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

<input type="radio"/> Brad Rader	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Roger Bajema	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Don Van Mersbergen
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Darryl Vander Haak	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Larry Stap	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Aneka Sweeney
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Erika Douglas	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="radio"/> John Gillies
<input type="radio"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="radio"/> Mark Sandal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Corina Cheever
<input type="radio"/> Mitch Moorlag	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Jeff Littlejohn	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Heather McKay

x = present o = absent with notice

Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Larry opened the Hearing. Don moved to close the hearing at 10:03, Darryl seconded, motion carried unanimously.

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of November 17 Minutes
- B. Financial Report

Fund Balance @ 12/1/2015 \$6,881.71

Larry asked who acted as the Treasurer for the WID. The County provides these services for the special purpose districts like Irrigation Districts. They collect the assessments, hold them in a fund, and write checks as directed by the board through the signed vouchers.

Don moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Darryl seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Ag Water Board report

- Legal
 - Legal Defense Team report – several lawyers have been interviewed and are in discussion with the AWB and WFF. The purpose is to examine where legal risks lie and to prepare a common set of arguments in defense of farming that farms, and their legal teams, could use in potential lawsuits against WID member farms.
 - Lummi Settlement Update – The AWB will be meeting with Lummi January 7th to further discuss short term and long term agreements. It was noted that under RECA suits compensation does not go to the affected parties (shellfish harvesters) but to the federal govt.
- Media Relations – a positive, careful, simple and fact filled message is what is needed. There is a need for the WIDs to show positive results of their activities to back up this message. The NLWID water quality monitoring and the follow-up being done is just such an action.

III. New Business

A. Ditch and Dike Maintenance

- Joint Meeting – Fred/Roger – Hopefully in January or February. Need to include the Corps of Engineers.
- identify sites for maintenance – next meeting

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results – Erika distributed the recent data. Numbers are elevated but not extremely high in most locations.

- Options presented by County on how to approach landowners once sources are clearly identified. Corina discussed the approach used by the County in cooperation with WCD in Drayton. Sending increasingly firmer letters and providing planning and financial assistance through the WCD has worked in numerous occasions. Erika noted the 21 ERTS reports in the County Oct – December. 9 are on dairies, 2 on berry, and 10 on non-commercial farms. Larry expressed his support for the WID being the first point of contact for the members. If quality and clear data exists we can take it to our neighbors and discuss it with them in a non-regulatory manner. We can point them to the non-regulatory resources and programs at the WCD to identify and correct problems. Only when these approaches do not produce cooperation or results should the regulatory agencies be called upon to increase the pressure.

Jeff noted that the City of Lynden was stepping up monitoring and community engagement around Fishtrap Creek. The storm drains have been cleaned and are being tested. Jeff encouraged the WID to help find more volunteers to help with this work.

Aneka demonstrated a renewed GIS water quality monitoring effort.

All routine water quality monitoring sites in Whatcom County:

<http://wacds.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e77d3beb93664d12aa7cc402ad16a48e>

*Fecal Coliform **Preliminary Results** map of routine monitoring:*

<http://wacds.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=71fa677503c949c8847066178a531099>

*ECY and WSDA source tracking **Preliminary Results**, non-routine, point sampling:*

<http://arcg.is/1O9tF48>

Aneka is taking in all feedback now and hopes to have these linked in one place with other resources after the New Year. The Board was grateful for the work and looks forward to how it will be used to communicate both with landowners and the general public.

C. Update of WID Comprehensive Plan

- Comprehensive Plan Update – mapping project – Heather presented a review of the work accomplished so far in the Ag Watershed Project. This project has already mapped the Fishtrap area for ag and watershed priorities. The NLWID board will review the results for Fishtrap Creek that are included in the 2013 Ag-Watershed Characterization & Mapping report, and Heather will discuss that with them at the regular meeting on 19th January. The NLWID will decide then if they wish to do any additional work on the maps and tables.

D. Education –

- Website www.northlyndenwid.com

IV. **Adjournment/Next Meeting** – January 19

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____