

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: October 20, 2015 Meeting, 10am – Noon

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Attending:

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ Casey Lankhaar | ___x___ Roger Bajema | _____ Don Van Mersbergen |
| ___x___ Darryl Vander Haak | ___x___ Larry Stap | ___x___ Jessica Kirkpatrick |
| ___x___ Erika Douglas | ___x___ Henry Bierlink | ___x___ Andrea Hood |
| ___x___ Fred Likkel | ___x___ Brad Rader | ___x___ Jeff Littlejohn |
| ___x___ Mitch Moorlag | | |

x = present o = absent with notice

I. Consent Agenda

A. Review and Approval of September 15 Minutes

B. Financial Report –

| | <u>Original Amount</u> | <u>This Month</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Available</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Grant #1 | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| Grant #2 | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| Fund Balance @ 10/1/2015 | | \$4,505.02 | | |
| Accounts Receivable | | | | |
| Invoices Submitted for reimbursement | | | | |
| TOTAL Available | | | | \$4,505.02 |
| Outstanding bills: | | | | \$0.00 |
| End of Month Balance | | | | \$4,505.02 |

| | <u>2015 Budget</u> | <u>Expended to Date</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Insurance | 1,550 | 1,588.00 | -38.00 |
| AWB | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Projects | 2,964 | 1,294.88 | 1,669.12 |
| Administration | 1,500 | 1,107.75 | 392.25 |
| | 6,014 | 3,990.63 | 2,023.37 |

Roger moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Darryl seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Administrative

- Insurance quotes – Henry reported that Bill Knutzen was checking on policies that might be able to lower our premium costs.

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

There was a question about Casey's status. He has not resigned but has indicated he does not intend to be nominated for a new term. His board membership will expire at the end of the year after which Brad, or another nominee, will take that seat.

- 2016 Budget preparation – The draft budget was reviewed. The need for funding for AWB membership 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 – Roger moved to set the 2016 Assessment rate at \$4/acre and the 2016 budget at \$23,678, Darryl seconded, motion carried unanimously.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>OPERATIONS</u> | \$4,200 |
| <u>AG WATER BOARD</u> | \$9,550 |
| <u>PROJECTS</u> | |
| Ditch Maintenance | \$3,000 |
| Legal Defense Fund | \$3,000 |
| Water Quality Monitoring/Projects | \$3,000 |
| TOTAL PROJECTS | <u>\$9,000</u> |
| <u>CONTINGENCY</u> | |
| approx. 4% of Budget | \$928 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | <u>\$23,678</u> |

- Establish 2016 Assessment Role – Roger moved to establish the Assessment Role consisting of the parcels from 2015, Darryl seconded, motion carried unanimously.

B. 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.
- Consideration of Joining the AWB – After discussion of the pros and cons Roger moved to have the NLWID join the Ag Water Board in 2016, Darryl seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Darryl moved to have Roger be the NLWID representative to the AWB with Brad and Larry in alternate roles, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.

III. New Business

- A. Ditch and Dike Maintenance – identify sites for maintenance – Roger suggested a meeting, hosted by the NLWID, with representatives of WDFW, DOE, DOT, Army Corps, City of Lynden, and Whatcom Public Works. The agenda would be to “get on the same page” on a ditch maintenance program and to understand where mitigation is needed and where it is not.
- B. Water Quality – Fred and Erika distributed the latest water quality testing results. She noted that they had additional E Coli data that was not reflected in the table of results. Erika noted that she expected the Fishtrap monitoring to continue at a similar level throughout 2016.

Erika distributed a chart indicating the current level of monitoring and some ideas about the next steps. At present there is extensive monitoring taking place and some initial work to track sources back from “hotspots”. The next steps are to engage the landowners. She presented three options for the WID to consider:

Option 1 – County sends letters, encourages work with WCD. Happening in Drayton with non-commercial farms.

Option 2 – WID and County send joint letters. Point parcel owners to a mutual commitment for clean water and to resources to help address the concerns. Larry felt the WID might consider this but only if the letters were clearly targeted at specific sites that had been clearly demonstrated to be a problem.

Option 3 – WID takes over communication with its members and turns matters to regulatory agencies if no progress is made.

The Board will consider what they are able and willing to do in future meetings.

C. Education –

- Website www.northlyndenwid.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. The board will review prior to sending out in November.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting – November 17th

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____