

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 14, 2021 Meeting, 10 am

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 846 4535 0328 Passcode: 043852

<u> x </u> Leroy Plagerman	<u> x </u> Roger Blok	<u> t </u> Jon Maberry
<u> o </u> Rich Appel	<u> x </u> Mike Boxx	
<u> x </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> Fred Likkel	<u> x </u> Gavin Willis
<u> </u> David Haggith	<u> t </u> Meg Harris	<u> </u> Aneka Sweeney
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:03.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of March 8 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
L0621	Ag Water Board	May, June AWB	\$7,110.17
L0621	Ag Water Board	July, August AWB	\$7,110.17
L0621	Exact Scientific	Avian DNA project	\$2,500.00
		TOTAL VOUCHER	\$16,720.34

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. County led Collaboration
 - Legislature provided 2 years funding @ \$125k/yr
 - County Executive meeting with AWB Water Supply Committee – June 8th - was summarized. Satpal understands the concerns with an adjudication and shares our goal of illustrating a better path to a solution by the time the 2023 Legislature considers the filing and funding of an adjudication. Tribes remain non-committal to an alternative path. A Tribal meeting with Ecology this month may help them determine their approach to County led collaboration.
 - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report due in July. Will likely be retained as a neutral party able to provide back channel communications with Tribes and Ecology.
 - Conflicting letters from [ReSources](#) and [Family Farmers](#)
 - [Executive's response](#) – challenged ReSources desire to abandon collaboration and focus only on data collection.
 - Request for infrastructure projects – ARA providing \$45 million – the board brainstormed potential projects.
 - Irrigation efficiency equipment
 - Bellingham pipeline
 - Cooperation with South Lynden on a PUD pipeline. Jon moved to approve up to \$5k to help develop the SLWID's project with the addition of some LWID land, Leroy seconded, motion carried unanimously. Leroy will talk with Landon about this.
- b. Watershed Management Board projects
 - Drainage Based Management - [outline](#)
 - Seeking expansion of outline AND key initial projects from each pilot
 - Regional Water Supply Plan – [data collection](#)

- c. Legal Preparation – AWB Legal committee and Bill Clarke are recommending some steps to prepare for an adjudication, should one actually be filed. We will set aside time at future AWB Board meetings for Executive Sessions as we prepare for litigation. We are planning to rotate Executive Sessions among future WID meetings as well to keep WID boards fully informed as well. Bill is suggesting that all WIDs look at obtaining a water right in the next 18 months. This would help ensure the WIDs have the standing they will need to be part of an adjudication and potential solutions arising in an adjudication or alternative agreement. Henry asked the board members to be alert to any land conversions where a water right might be purchased.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance
 - DID #3 – Fourmile east of Hannegan – Roger noted the District has a permit in place for the work. Someone needs to captain the work. Frank can help but he won't initiate getting the project going. Leroy will contact Frank to outline the project and get the needed permits going soon. He noted that Chris Clark had an old map of the drainage system that would be helpful.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Meg reported the numbers were good in the winter and just slightly elevated this spring.
- b. Ten Mile project report – Meg reported the group is scaling down. Just some ambient monitoring. Seems their meetings may be getting back on schedule after COVID.
- c. DNA project – Avian project report has been received. It helps clarify some issues but more questions arise. There is some interest in pursuing more data to answer these questions. Fred expects to arrange a fall meeting where Exact can present the data to the sponsoring WIDs and discuss next steps. Roger suggested that there was little need to identify every source. For our benefit, it is important to isolate if the source is human, wildlife, or cattle.
- d. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Meg noted the spring samples were improved over the fall and winter ones.
- e. Report on landowner contacts – no new updates

V. Education/Communications

- a. www.Laurelwid.com
- b. Meg noted that Frank Corey was filling the Interim Executive Director role at the WCD with George's retirement. A search committee has narrowed the candidates to three. Meg invited WID members to be involved in the final review of the candidates.
- c. Fred Berman was appointed to the WCD Board. Fred has been involved in Whatcom ag and food business for decades.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Mike adjourned the meeting at 11:10. Next planned meetings are September 13 and October 11.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____