

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: Sept. 12, 2022 Meeting, 10 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86980398373?pwd=Q1RzRkxhaHM5QXZaRnN1TUsvQ0ZPZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 8039 8373 Passcode: 045903

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman	<input type="checkbox"/> Roger Blok	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry
<input type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault
<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber	<input type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney
<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler
<input type="checkbox"/> Dakota Stranik	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob McWhoter	<input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia May
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:04.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of June 13, 2022 minutes
- b. [Financial Report](#)

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
L0922	AWB	July - Sept. AWB, permit	\$9,577.95
L0922	Enduris	insurance	\$3,248.00
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$12,825.95</b>

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
  - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement concept being circulated among the local partners. Some encouraging interest.
  - Ecology floating “Solutions Showcase” – learning from the [Yakima example](#) – they expect to have Yakima representatives at the October 27 Watershed Management Board meeting. We should be in touch with the ag representatives to be sure they understand the context of how an adjudication would affect Whatcom farmers.
  - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table
    - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted with an expectation we will here if it is approved in early October.
    - Review of the groundwater model is underway with AESI doing much of the work. They expect data from surface to groundwater transfers to contribute to this data.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - Establish a Water Bank – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – AWB will be discussing submitting an application to create the Exchange next week.
  - Exchange would:
    - Identify rights with potential of transfer or sale.
    - Provide initiate screen of the right for volume and transfer area. It is estimated transfers normally cost \$15-20k overall. The Exchange would cover the initial review but the bulk of the costs would be covered by the parties making the transaction.
    - Publicize opportunity to purchase or transfer rights
  - [Mailing to all WID members](#) – it is anticipated that each WID would send information to its members regarding how to make deposits and withdrawals from the Exchange/Bank. This would be followed up by strategic contacts with the list of water right holders that we identified as likely to not be filing in the adjudication.

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

- a. Flood update – Fred reported a side channel near Everson would be constructed this fall providing some increased capacity for the river. An updated design charrette is scheduled for October 11th. Fred noted that the County Flood Fund has fallen below the \$5 million base amount which will require backfilling the fund. This will require cutting current expenses/programs or a flood tax increase.
- b. Ditch maintenance – Jon moved to allow the Four Mile DID use of our HPA permit contingent on signing an agreement outlining the provisions in our permit, Leroy seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- c. WCD Update – Alan reminded the board that the CD’s proposed parcel assessments would be on the County Council agenda this fall. A countywide parcel fee of up to \$5 is being proposed.
- d. Beaver trapping – Fred will contact Pete reminding him of the approved budget for trapping and the need in the Green Lake area.

### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – Cynthia reviewed the latest monitoring data. Most numbers were in a moderate level with a slight bump near NW Road in August.
- b. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred reported that DOH has also closed the beds in September under highly questionable support data.

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

- a. Website – [www.laurelwid.com](http://www.laurelwid.com)
- b. Legislative Tour – Bill has suggested a targeted tour for key water policy legislators in early October. This would reinforce a clear legislative request being formulated by our legal team.

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

Mike adjourned the meeting at 11:18. Next meetings are October 10, November 14.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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