

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 8, 2020 Meeting, 10 am

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 865 8144 9147 Password: 960168

<u> </u> x <u> </u> Leroy Plagerman	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Roger Blok	<u> </u> o <u> </u> Jon Maberry
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Rich Appel	<u> </u> o <u> </u> Mike Boxx	
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Fred Likkel	<u> </u> Hank Kastner
<u> </u> David Haggith	<u> </u> Meg Harris	<u> </u> Aneka Sweeney
<u> </u> Alan Chapman	<u> </u> Eric Sundstrom	<u> </u> Kasey Cykler
<u> </u> Bob Seaman	<u> </u> Bob McWhoter	

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

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

Ag Water Board	May - August AWB	\$11,177.12
	TOTAL - Month	\$11,177.12

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

II. Administrative

- a. Adopt Purchasing Policy – Henry explained that the Bertrand WID was coordinating the payment of invoices for the Duffner tidegate project which had several funding partners including state grant funding. A clear purchasing policy for the WID is needed to make this work properly and stay in line with state purchasing requirements. Each WID is presented with the opportunity to adopt a similar policy so it can be ready to take on similar projects. Leroy moved approval of the LWID Purchasing Policy, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Appoint Auditing officer – A requirement of the Purchasing Policy is the appointment of a designated Auditing Officer for the WID. The Auditing Officer needs to have a \$50k bond. Leroy moved appointment of Henry Bierlink as the LWID Auditing Officer, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate – Henry reported:
 - AWB position shared by Bellingham, PUD, private wells.
 - The County is currently choosing to remain neutral in the debate hoping to be in the position to facilitate future negotiations either under an adjudication or remaining in negotiations under the Water Management Board. AWB is pressing the County and the Planning Unit to take a position in opposition to adjudication.
 - Adjudication supported only by Tribes and environmental caucus of the Planning Unit.
 - Ecology position likely by July. Report to the Legislature is due in September.
 - COVID impacts on the State budget make funding for a new adjudication in 2021 very unlikely. However, Ecology could file the legal work for an adjudication on its own. Legislative approval is only for funding. We do not want the Nooksack to be recommended.
- b. Regional Water Supply task force selected Aspect Consulting as contractor. This is the beginning of the Drainage Based Management negotiations that we are advancing instead of an adjudication. The consultant team selected to guide this process is new to AWB but has worked for both Tribes in the past.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance
 - Four Mile east of Hannegan – Fred and Frank looked over the needed work with Paul Sangha.
- b. Flood Committee update – Fred noted the board has been focused on the Duffner tidegate project and is expecting to add another tidegate project on Cougar Creek in 2021.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – limited monitoring has been occurring. WQ website has not been updated.
- b. Ten Mile group report – no report
- c. DNA project – Avian project initiated – all WIDs contributed to make the \$20k available. Fred expects Kent to have something to report this fall. Fred noted that Karen Steensma was part of a grant project studying bird behavior that may be able to augment this DNA project with some help and funding.
- d. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – the board was interested in seeing the evolving results of marine sampling in Portage. Fred reminded them that shellfish harvesting is open with the exception of October – November.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.laurelwid.com
- b. Ag Engineer support position – no action on pursuing this as it is unclear if the WCD is still attempting to advance the assessment idea. Chris Clark is still helping with the existing EQIP contracts. Unsure if he will be available to help with future ones.
- c. COVID-19 concerns – a brief discussion of how the various sectors of agriculture were addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 virus.

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Beaver Trapping – in light of ongoing beaver management issues Leroy moved to allow a \$2,500 budget from the 2020 Project fund for Pete Smit to trap beaver within the LWID, Roger seconded, motion passed unanimously. Rich will talk with Pete and work together on using this budget allowance strategically. The idea of cost sharing with farmers for beaver trapping will also be examined.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

September 14

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____