

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – November 13, 2023, 10 AM

Board Attending:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel	<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry
<input type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Sundstrom	

Others Attending:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber
<input type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith
<input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia May	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Reed	<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Faubion

x – present o – absent with notice t – teleconference p – proxy

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:08.

1. Board of Equalization

- Eric moved to open the board of equalization. Leroy seconded. Board opened.
- No one present to contest assessments.
- Eric moved to close the board of equalization. Leroy seconded. Board closed.

2. Consent Agenda

- October 9 minutes were reviewed.
- Financial report was reviewed.
- Eric moved to approve the consent agenda. Leroy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Administration

- With no other nominations, Rich and Mike are elected to new 3-year terms, and Eric is elected to a new 2-year term.

4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- ECY expects to have the filing form for adjudication out for public comment by the end of the year.
- Planning unit is looking at ways to connect land use with water access. Seems to be general agreement that you can't zone for agriculture without providing water; question is how you implement that into policy.
- Discussion of combined grant application for Streamflow Restoration Grant. Would include surface-to-groundwater conversions sponsored by AWB. Board member noted Craig Stancke as a WID member who might be interested in participating.
- AWB staff will be meeting with tribal staff later in the week to discuss water supply projects.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. FLIP update – county is under pressure to get shovels in the ground on some projects.
- b. CREP update.
 - i. Getting closer to having a program in place for buffers at the state level – still some details for SCC to work out.

6. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided an update on water quality via email.
 - i. Numbers overall looking good.
 - ii. Portage Bay numbers looking good as well – cautiously optimistic that shellfish bed openings may be expanded.
 - iii. Reminder that you can report waterfowl presence via the Whatcom Wildlife Tracker
- b. CD is potentially going to be able to do DNA testing via a grant from EPA. Remains to be seen how precise that testing is.

7. Education / Communications

- a. CD is looking for candidates for election next year. Filing deadline is January **12**.
- b. Website – laurelwid.com
 - i. Website update is tabled until next year
- c. Discussion of WFF adjudication event on Nov 8. Overall a successful event.

8. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None

9. Next Meetings

- a. Next meeting is Dec 11. Gavin will send email notice if that is cancelled. Following meeting would be January 8.

Mike adjourned the meeting at 11:06.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____