

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 13, 2022 Meeting, 10 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85333988277?pwd=OGREZnVqNEdmcXBzNTNlVZNBG1Edz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3398 8277 Passcode: 390991

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

Rich called the meeting to order at 10:07.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 11, 2022 minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
L0622	Ag Water Board	May, June	\$6,356.50
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$6,356.50</b>

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
  - Somach Law – AWB and Family Farmers contracts in place.
  - Meeting with Ecology May 25<sup>th</sup> – decent tone but very different views on next steps. Ecology is committed to file for the adjudication in 2023.
- b. Solutions Table and or option 2
  - Lummi mixed participation until after the adjudication is filed and also used veto power to keep Watershed Management Board from proceeding without them
  - Meeting with County May 25<sup>th</sup> – stressing need to move ahead with either Solutions Table without the Tribes or energize the Watershed Management Board process.
  - Project List
    - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted
- c. County Comprehensive Plan resolutions – a few Council members are proposing a resolution to make the Climate Action plan better integrated with the upcoming Comp Plan update. The Planning Unit is proposing a similar, but simplified, resolution to make water plans consistent with the Land Use plans.
- d. Water Right acquisition candidates – 81
  - Determine who and how to contact
  - Menu of options for landowners – use Bertrand transfer project as a template for others – Jay outlined the steps taken and next steps leading to providing options for water right holders who may not be inclined to defend their rights in an adjudication. Priority one is to have farmers use and defend their full rights.
    - #2 is to transfer all or some into the Water Trust to protect from relinquishment, the WID work with the landowner to conduct an “extent and validity” test to map where the right might be transferred. Seasonal transfers may be facilitated by the WID. The WID would need a contractual relationship with the water right holder to incur these costs.

- #3 is for the AWB to host a water right exchange assisting farmer to farmer transfers. We'd need to limit this to only irrigators to avoid facilitating transfers to uses outside of ag.
- #4 for the WID to lease or purchase the right and move it into a water bank. The Water Bank will likely be needed to pick up rights that have limited transfer potential as well as the means to distribute new water made available through pipelines, etc.

How to contact the several water right holders on our list of rights we are not sure will be defended remains uncertain. Our goal will be to have a clear Menu of Options by this fall and develop an approach to make connection with these right holders.

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

- a. Flood response – FLIP meeting April 25-26 – Fred was optimistic with the process that seems to be advancing workable solutions.
- b. Ditch maintenance – FourMile DID – met with Joel who is more inclined to spot cleaning than systematic cleanouts. Leroy would like to be part of future meetings.
- c. Cougar Creek tidegate – on next years' schedule
- d. WCD Update – Dakota introduced Cynthia May who was hired by WCD to replace Meg Harris. She gave her background and interest in this position and promised to be a resource on water quality to all the WIDs.
- e. Beaver trapping – still nothing due to wet conditions.

### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – generally good with a few hot spots about a month or so ago.
- b. DNA testing – David submitted 12 samples and is waiting for a full report. Initial indications point to a high % of swan.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – no news.

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

- a. Website – [www.laurelwid.com](http://www.laurelwid.com)
- b. WFF Educational Event – May 25<sup>th</sup> – a debriefing of the event took place. There were questions about the availability of a video of the talks. Some are asking for a similar event this fall.
- c. Alan noted the WCC has substantial funding for riparian restoration work focused on critical salmon stocks. He challenged the board to identify areas where these funds might be used.

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

Rich adjourned the meeting at 11:22. Next meeting is ~~July 11, Aug 8~~, Sept 12.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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