

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 13, 2023, 10 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85210563411>

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Sundstrom | <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"/> Tristen Simons | <input type="checkbox"/> Roger Blok |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey | <input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia May |

x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:00.

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of February 13 Minutes
- Financial Report

| <u>Voucher #</u> | <u>Payee</u> | <u>Purpose</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| L0323 | AWB | March - August AWB | \$28,137.66 |
| TOTAL VOUCHER | | | \$28,137.66 |

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

II. Administrative

- Welcome Eric to Board – Eric was sworn in to the office as board member.
- Recognition of service for Roger – Roger’s service as one of the original LWID board members was appreciated. He served for 8+ years.
- Loan request from Sumas WID -The cash flow concern of the Sumas WID’s FEMA projects was reported:
 - The proposed system of transfer is an interlocal agreement with AWB, DWID, LWID, and the SWID
 - LWID lends \$25,000 to AWB, which in turn lends \$25,000 to SWID
 - a 60-day callback on the funds is in the agreement
 - Terms of the agreement is March 1 through Dec 31, 2023
 - Jon moved approval of the Interlocal Agreement and the \$25k loan to the AWB/WID loan fund, Leroy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- Ecology adjudication budget request and proposed legislation – HB 1792 - Henry updated the board on the legislature’s progress on the adjudication funding and filing request. HB 1792 has passed out of the House on a 97-0 vote and is in the Senate.
- Budget proviso – tech data and adjudication assistance – will be determined near the end of the session in April.
- [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted scheduled for April 26th.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- Fred provided an update on FLIP progress. The Reach 5 FLIP team is scheduled to meet on April 28th, and is starting to think about how to prioritize action items.
- Gavin and Fred will be at a meeting with the small cities on Friday, Mar 17 about expanding the span of the Everson bridge. WSDOT would like to know if they need to do anything, and the county does not seem to have any recommendations.
- Ditch maintenance – discussion with County on what road ditches need cleaning is upcoming.

d. Buffers

- Fred updated the board on the status of buffers in Olympia. There seems to be a wave of funding coming but little agreement on what standards will need to be met.
- WCD worksession followup – Frank updated the [map showing priority areas](#) and included a [buffer list](#) for all the WIDs. Laurel is roughly 33% in the green, yellow, and red category.
- Discussion about incentive payments to landowners for buffers. Annual rentals are one option, purchasing a conservation easement is another. Funding is available via State Conservation Commission, CREP, and NRCS; best funding source may vary depending on details specific to each project. There is also potential in the future for continuing income related to ecological benefits from buffers. The WID may be a more responsive entity when it comes to that than the county, land trusts, etc.
- Discussion about buffer width and management. Recognition that 200'+ buffers are not acceptable, but that 10' buffers will probably not meet requirements. Data shows that 35'-50' buffers provide 80-90% of the benefit of SPTH buffers. Also a need to be able to manage the drainage (including mitigating impacts from beavers and sediment buildup, and removal of invasive species).
- Discussion about Frank's proposed letter to landowners in the WID. Letter generally looks good, although may need info about buffer size and landowner incentives. Was determined best to send letter to landowners in areas where buffers can have the greatest impact, likely soon after the session. Frank will come to the next meeting with a list of key landowners, and the WID can send out the letter once we have more information about available funding sources.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Cynthia reported no areas of concern.
- b. DNA testing – Henry will send Jon and Eric the DNA report we received from Exact 2 years ago.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.laurelwid.com

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Mike adjourned the meeting at 11:42. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10 but attention to the field work weather may require cancellation. The goal is to have at least 1 more spring meeting before the July, August break.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____