

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 8, 2019 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

<u> </u> x <u> </u> Leroy Plagerman	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Roger Blok	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Jon Maberry
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Rich Appel	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Mike Boxx	
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Fred Likkel	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Hank Kastner
<u> </u> Alan Chapman	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Eric Sundstrom	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Stacey Beier
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Jeff Cedarbaum	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Bob McWhoter	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Mike Murphy

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of March 11 Minutes
- Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Jon moved approval of the consent agenda, Leroy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- Drainage Based Management – tasked to County – pushing for June start – still uncertain how this gets started. Funds from the grant application are still uncertain as well.
- Ecology Rule Making – amending the Nooksack Rule
 - AWB requests (attached) – a draft is scheduled to come out shortly.
 - Open Houses – April 22 – 1-3 in Ferndale, 6-8 in Lynden
- Advice to landowners via the Spring newsletter – Board was asked if this message was timely or needed. Concern expressed over Ecology’s responsiveness. We don’t want to advise making contacts and not get responses. Fred is meeting with Ecology Director Maia Bellon later this week and may have a chance to ask about the Rule Amendment and how Ecology might be able to help farmers with the expenses of meeting all the requirements involved in installing the pumps, pipes, and meters needed to update water rights with actual use.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- E. Hemmi project update – Bob reported the site would be featured in an [Earth Day celebration](#) on April 20th.
- Drainage projects – County and WDFW will meet with all WIDs about projects. The board was asked which projects should be submitted for the Laurel WID. The area around Green Lake was examined but no clear project outlined. It was noted that the work on the Ten Mile near Chasteen and Ten Mile Roads had improved drainage dramatically.
- FLIP process – Fred is meeting with Paula soon to prioritize which projects should be advanced this year.

IV. Water Quality

- Ten Mile Project report
 - April 10 TCWP meeting – NWQI report – Board members were encouraged to attend.
 - Ten Mile Creek work report – Bob reported that all sites were looking good. He was hoping for a better way to track water draining from large waterfowl areas. This led to a question about how the TMCWP could protect data so that the landowner would not be implicated. They have a system set up with the WCD that protects individual data but there remain questions about how much protection this actually provides if someone was motivated to get the test results.
- Deer Creek concerns – Hank noted that the residential area east of Ferndale was not in the City or in the Urban Growth Area (UGA). The City has no interest or ability to provide

- sewer in this area. If we want them to we'd have to make that argument in the next UGA update scheduled for 2026. Erika made a strong attempt to help us get this issue advanced.
- c. Portage Bay press release – by both WFF and Whatcom County. Story made it to the Bellingham Herald this week.
 - d. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – hoping to help inform the wildlife and waterfowl contributions to fecal numbers.
 - e. Ecology Mailer – Jeff noted the mailer sent to all non-dairy livestock owners this spring warning about risky practices.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.laurelwid.com
- b. Newsletter – WID activity report – Mike reviewed the draft. It was noted that the President's message should include an invitation to have farmers bring their drainage concerns to the WID so we could prioritize projects.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

May 13 – likely cancelled
June 10
Sept 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____