

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 9, 2018 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Blok     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hank Kastner        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Sterk      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather MacKay | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Lovato Niles |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Ross       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Sundstrom | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob McWhoter        |

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

## I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of February 12 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

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

## II. Administrative

- a. Develop Comprehensive Plan – Heather and Cheryl discussed the recent updates. They asked about other groups that have interests in the watershed that may need to be talked to. DID # 3 was mentioned as a group that needs to be coordinated with. Fred noted the Flood Board should also be incorporated into the Plan. Roger asked is the Plan was fluid and adaptable. The goal is to keep it so and that means periodic review and updating of action items. Leroy moved to approve the draft Plan and place on our website, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

## III. Ag Water Board

- a. AWB “Next Steps” proposal
  - i. Vet with Lummi - Present as logical progression of the process they outlined in 2015. Greg Ebe is leading the connection with Lummi.
  - ii. Emphasis on implementing projects – demonstrate our commitments – including the surface to ground water conversion project opportunities in ESB 6091.
  - iii. Goal of having Lummi and AWB advance Drainage Based Management at the Watershed Management Board in Fall.
- b. Foster Task Force pilot program – opportunity for all WID members with a surface water right that you would consider moving to groundwater.
  - i. Need a list of applicants by June 1
  - ii. Would apply for funds to cover water right transfer processing and cost share
  - iii. R & E and AESI assisting in locating likely candidates. Henry referred to the maps provided by AESI. Our goal is to identify several (2-4) potential surface water rights that might be converted to a groundwater source.

Purposes of the project are:

    1. Demonstrate our commitment to improve stream flows
    2. Assist farmers with getting water rights solidified and infrastructure updated.
    3. Make sure we don’t lose water rights because of nonuse or underuse.

Priority projects will be:

    1. Upstream
    2. Significant volume
    3. An interested party with few complications.

WID board was encouraged to study the maps and help identify potential projects meeting these criteria. We would like to keep soliciting interest in this type of a project as we expect there will be more opportunities in future years.

- c. Spring Workshop on water right tools – likely early June.
- d. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update – Ecology is trying to provide a clear definition of “net ecological benefit”, a requirement in the ESB 6091 legislation. There will be a need for mitigating projects and ag in the best place to provide them.

#### **IV. Drainage/Habitat**

- a. Ditch maintenance – visit with County road crew
  - Ten Mile @ Chasteen Rd. – we will try spot cleaning of blockages without dredging. The hope is that the sediment under the bridge will be flushed. Jon moved to allow up to \$3k of LWID funds to support the work in this area, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. DID #3 (Fourmile) mitigation plan – discussion with board about appropriate funding. Jon moved to provide \$4k towards the mitigation requirements in 2018 with the possibility of future help in future budgets, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- c. 5-year programmatic permit - permit developed by Frank at WCD – Rich moved approval of the permit application, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- d. Flood- FLIP – a meeting to discuss the results of the sediment study will be held Thursday.

#### **V. Water Quality**

- a. Ten Mile Group reported good tests recently. Andy announced he was leaving the group to take on a full time position at Lummi. The group thanked him for his work and voiced hope that he could facilitate improving relationships between farmer and Lummi.
- b. South Lynden source tracking project report - @ a future SLWID meeting
- c. Joint Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District Advisory meeting – 25<sup>th</sup>

#### **VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Website - [www.laurelwid.com](http://www.laurelwid.com)
- b. E-Newsletter
- c. WFF – REAL campaign – looking for more stories. The Fourmile Project under Dorie’s leadership will be the first story.
- d. First Salmon Ceremony will be on May 17, 2018 from 10:00 to 2:00

#### **VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

June 11 @ 10:00 am

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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