

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: October 10, 2022 Meeting, 10 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86980398373?pwd=Q1RzRkxhaHM5QXZaRnN1TUsvQ0ZPZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 8039 8373 Passcode: 045903

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Blok	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler

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

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:06.

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of September 12, 2022 minutes
- [Financial Report](#)

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

II. Administrative

- Board nominations – Roger and Leroy need to be nominated. Rich nominated Leroy for another term, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously. Roger felt he should not take on the responsibility for another term. Several potential board members were discussed. Nominees need to have a declaration of candidacy to the WID office by November 7th.
- [AWB Budget request](#) – Board reviewed the request which included added legal costs and encouragement for WIDs to budget for water right acquisition. Leroy moved to accept the \$56,275 budget for the LWID, Rich seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- 2023 Workplan & Budget
 - Resolution 2022-1 – Setting the 2023 Assessment Rate and Budget
 - Leroy moved to adopt Resolution 2022-1, keep the acre assessment at \$9, and the total budget at \$74,700, Rich seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - Resolution 2022-2 – Adopting the 2023 Assessment Roll
 - Leroy moved to adopt Resolution 2022-2, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - November 14th Board of Equalization will be held to begin the meeting.

DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE – *all Watershed Improvement Districts*

Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – one position in Bertrand, two in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o'clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.

2) Inspect the 2023 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in Laurel will be heard at 10am, November 14th; for Bertrand at 2pm, November 14th; for Sumas at 1pm, November 8th; for South Lynden at 3pm, November 8th; for North Lynden at 9am, November 15th; and for Drayton at 3pm, November 15th, all at the District's office or via Zoom. Contact the WID administrator for access to the meeting @ info@agwaterboard.com. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 18th to November 8th.

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts' offices located at 204 Hawley Street, Lynden.

Public Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 19, 26, and November 2

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
 - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement idea being vetted
 - Ecology floating “Solutions Showcase” – learning from the [Yakima example](#). We should submit questions and connect with the Yakima farmers involved prior to the October 27th WMB meeting.
 - Ecology budget request – Bill noted they asked the Legislature for \$2.75 million for the next biennium. This would not cover the expenses of the Attorney General or the Whatcom Superior Court. We are drafting a response that would point the Legislature towards more effective and efficient means of addressing the numerous water issues.
 - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table
 - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application denied. Will be debriefing with Ecology soon to understand why.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
 - AWB to establish – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – in process
 - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – will be sent once the Exchange is set up.
 - Follow-up with key acquisition candidates

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Flood update – design charrette @ Tuesday’s meeting. Fred noted some signs of progress as illustrated by the side channel created near the Everson bridge.
- b. Ditch maintenance – Four Mile DID – excellent progress report but they are out of funds in the DID. Roger noted they used to figure on \$1.50/ft. for debris and sediment removal. Costs have been closer to \$10/ft. for this work. Rich moved to support their project with funds not to exceed \$20k, Roger seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- c. WCD Update – [parcel fee proposed](#) - County Council public hearing on Oct 25th. – Alan reviewed the purpose of the proposal which is to provide a funding base for the WCD which is currently nearly solely reliant on grant funding. A letter of support from the WIDs and AWB would be appreciated. The board noted they appreciated the funding package which is based on parcels rather than acres. The net result is ag would be providing approximately \$30k of the \$590k revenue. The services provided by the WCD were also appreciated but the loss of an ag engineer to help with EQIP contracts was sorely missed.
- d. Beaver trapping – DID is paying these bills.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred noted that most recent numbers were from very low flow areas. Even with that challenge the numbers have not been high.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.laurelwid.com
- b. Legislative Tour - November – Henry explained that once we have a clear ask of the Legislature as they consider the funding of the adjudication Bill will help to bring some key legislators to Whatcom and we will show them sites to illustrate our request.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Mike adjourned the meeting at 11:35. Next meeting is November 14.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____