

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 14, 2019 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

<u> x </u> Leroy Plagerman	<u> x </u> Roger Blok	<u> x </u> Jon Maberry
<u> x </u> Rich Appel	<u> o </u> Mike Boxx	
<u> x </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> x </u> Fred Likkel	<u> x </u> Hank Kastner
<u> </u> David Haggith	<u> x </u> Frank Corey	<u> </u> Aneka Sweeney
<u> x </u> Bob Seaman	<u> x </u> Bob McWhoter	<u> x </u> Stacey Beier

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

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of November 12 Minutes
- Financial Report and payment of bills
Roger moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administration

- Board reorganization – officer election – AWB representatives – Consensus was to keep Mike as Chair and AWB representative and Rich as vice-chair.
- Potential candidates for future board positions – Henry will email the list of parcel owners in the WID. Board will come with suggestions in February.
- Annual Review – AWB and Whatcom Family Farmers – comments were solicited. Concern over our strategy to meet the challenge of water rights. It is not clearly understood by many.
- Strategic Planning – review annual priorities on website, Management Plan – Immediate Action items for 2019 were identified. Henry will draft an updated list of actions and goals for review and adoption in February.

2019 Action Items

- Support Ag Water Board for efforts in legal negotiations and lobbying
- Build on the 5-year plan for drainage. Communicate ability to make use of our permits to landowners and partners in the WID.
- Continue to make use of DNA technology for water quality

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- AWB/Tribal meeting with Lummi – on hold until Drainage Based Management is initiated
- Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - PU continuing to work on updating the watershed management plan. The February 1st deadline will be missed. Henry and Fred are questioning the utility of investing significant time in the upcoming months in the plan update. The emphasis should be in plan implementation instead.
 - Management Board returning to implementing 5-year workplan which includes Drainage Based Management and a Water Supply plan.
- Ecology grant application – notice in mid-January – discussions are underway with the Management Board as to implement these projects.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- E. Hemmi project – Frank provided the details of the project. Project partners are the WCD, NSEA, and Whatcom County Public Works. They requested the use of the LWID's HPA for permitting. Leroy moved to approve this request, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously. The LWID will be noted as a project sponsor.
- Notice to landowners – the board suggested sending a letter to our landowners informing them of the programmatic HPA and their ability to work with the WID to improve drainage on their farms.

V. Water Quality

- a. Ten Mile Project report – Bob noted some samples were being analyzed.
- b. Monitoring Results – some challenging numbers in the late fall. Laurel was among the cleanest streams.
- c. Landowner letter – recommended by AWB – Fred noted there were too many lapses in judgement this fall. A reminder letter was proposed to all WID members and recommended to each WID by the AWB. Leroy moved to send the letter to LWID landowners, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- d. Deer Creek concern - Rich suggested we slow down and get more information before contracting Ferndale about the Deer Creek issues. Hank is talking with Erika about next steps.
- e. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – Bob noted that Ryan McLaughlin at Exact had information to report on this project. We might consider hosting a presentation in the near future.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.laurelwid.com
- b. WCD's Manure Management workshop on the 17th.
- c. FLIP – Fred reported on the progress of the Flood Management Board. Reach 2 (Ferndale to Lynden) is being examined

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. [Storage Study](#) – it was noted that Chuck Lindsay had completed a brief overview of lowland water storage options for the PUD. No sites in the Laurel WID were examined but the Pole Road gravel pits might be useful for Fourmile flows.
- b. [Fish Screening requirements](#) – WDFW presented to the South Lynden WID on screen requirement for surface water diversions and a new program that will provide cost share for irrigators choosing to upgrade their screens. 3/32" screens are required.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

February 11

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

Laurel WID Priorities, Goals, and Possible Actions

1. Water Quantity: water availability for agricultural use (irrigation, livestock, processing)

Goal: Farmers in the Laurel WID have secure (legal) access to sufficient water for agricultural uses.

Action:

- 2019: Support & coordinate with Ag Water Board for efforts in legal negotiations and actions related to water rights
- 2019: Provide education about water rights to WID members
- 2018: Foster task force pilot: Identified participants and prioritize locations where transfers might be feasible and practical.
- 2018: Participated in workshop on water rights.
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2. Agricultural field drainage

Goal: Drainage infrastructure and ditches in the Laurel WID are actively and efficiently maintained

Action:

- 2017: Developed 5-year plan for drainage
- 2018: Supported Four Mile Drainage District revegetation
- 2018: Coordinated Ten Mile Creek drainage improvements
- 2019: Support East Hemmi stream reroute and restoration
- 2019: Communicate ability to make use of our permits to landowners and partners in the WID
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3. Water Quality

Goal: Agricultural activities in the Laurel WID do not cause water quality standards to be exceeded in surface water and groundwater bodies within the WID.

Action:

- 2017: Supported SLWID DNA testing for water quality (Scott Ditch)
- 2019: Continue to make use of DNA technology for water quality
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4. Flood management & protection

Goal: Agricultural lands in the Laurel WID are protected from flooding due to surface water runoff at critical times in the growing season.

Action:

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5. Communication, Outreach, and Education

Goal (internal): WID members are aware of and understand the priority issues and participate actively in WID planning & implementation of priority actions.

Goal (external): Nonagricultural residents and other stakeholders outside the WID are aware of, understand and support the Laurel WID's priority actions

Actions:

- (2015) Redesigned website @ www.laurelwid.com
- (2017 – present) Use AWB and Family Farmers newsletters to communicate current projects
- (2017 – present) Sponsor WCD Speaker Series and other communication efforts

6. Water flow processes; Habitats & species

Goal: The Laurel WID's plans and actions help to protect and enhance water flow processes and fish and wildlife habitats in the Four Mile, Ten Mile, and Deer Creek watersheds

Actions:

- (2019) Identify and replace priority fish blocking culverts

7. Agricultural protection (*Protecting the agricultural industry*)

Goal: Important agricultural land in the WID is protected from conversion through appropriate zoning and/or voluntary agricultural conservation easements

Actions:

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