

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – April 10, 2023, 10 AM

*Board Attending:*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Sundstrom	

*Others Attending:*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tristan Simons	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Reed	

*x – present      o – absent with notice      t – teleconference      p – proxy*

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:01.

### **1. Consent Agenda**

- a. February 21 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Leroy moved to approve the consent agenda. Jon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2. Ag Water Board / Water Supply**

- a. Henry provided an update on adjudication issues in the legislature
  - i. HB 1792 has passed the legislature and is on the Governor’s desk
  - ii. With regards to the Budget proviso, the Senate had the full request in their budget, and the House only had 50%. Will find out soon what the results of the budget reconciliation are
- b. Gavin and Henry will be meeting with the out-of-stream water users group on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to vet proposals from the project list there, and take them to the Watershed Management Board for approval. It is unlikely that the first meeting of the group will get that far.
- c. The WMB has requested comments for their new 5-year plan. Henry drafted a first response to the survey. Discussion followed about how much we should look to the WMB as the entity to resolve water issues. Concerns were expressed about having the WMB being a coordinating or controlling entity when it comes to a settlement process connected or adjacent to a water rights adjudication. Board members expressed that they would be much more likely to support having the WMB be a coordinating entity for those settlement talks if agriculture was a voting member of the WMB.

### **3. Drainage / Habitat / Flood**

- a. No update on FLIP work

- b. Ditch maintenance is needed at the intersection of Ten Mile and Chasteen. Fred has reached out to the county about that location; there is some confusion about the intended design of the drainage system of the ditches at that location
- c. Buffer work session followup
  - i. Tristan identified the landowners in the priority areas. The draft letter can go to those landowners once we have a better idea of what the incentive programs might look like.
  - ii. Frank suggested that now would be a good time for the WIDs and/or AWB to send a letter to the Washington State Conservation Commission giving input on their buffer program, especially related to buffer width. Gavin will draft a letter to that effect.
  - iii. The board approved the letter to landowners with a few changes.

#### **4. Water Quality**

- a. Cynthia provided an update on water quality via email.
  - i. The last routing sampling in Laurel was on March 13 – next one is April 11.
  - ii. Fourmile Creek and Deer Creek had low counts
  - iii. Tenmile Creek has some higher values, but overall still good
- b. Nothing new to report on Portage Bay – there is a meeting later this month

#### **5. Education / Communications**

- a. Fred provided an update on the Carbon Tax issue where farms are not receiving the exemption that they are entitled to. The result is an additional cost to farmers of 50-70 cents per gallon. A legislative fix looks unlikely at this point.
- b. Website – [laurelwid.com](http://laurelwid.com)

#### **6. Other Items from Commissioners**

- a. The Cougar Creek tidegate project is anticipated to happen Summer 2024.

#### **7. Next Meetings**

- a. A potential meeting is scheduled for May 8, otherwise the next meeting is June 12.

Mike adjourned the meeting at 11:17.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

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