

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 13, 2023 Meeting, 10 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88151543517> Meeting ID: 881 5154 3517

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leroy Plagerman	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Sterk	<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault
<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber	<input type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney
<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Reed	<input type="checkbox"/> Roger Blok
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey	<input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia May

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

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:08.

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of January 9 Minutes
- Financial Report

Leroy moved approval of the Consent agenda, Rich seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- Appointment to vacant position – Kevin likely to be appointed @ County Council 2/21 – this was planned for 2/07 but the timeline for applications was extended upon Councilmember Elenbaas’ request.
- Change in meeting time – Rich moved to switch our regular meeting time from 10am on second Monday to 1pm on third Monday, Leroy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- Ecology adjudication budget request and proposed legislation – the legal teams for all the major water interests in Whatcom have agreed on an amended schedule for the adjudication and a budget proviso that would help fund the County and WRIA #1 Management Board in assisting filings, needed technical studies, and a broader settlement process that would address issues outside the adjudication. Both are moving through the Legislature.
- [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted scheduled for March 29th.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- Ditch maintenance – Fred will connect with County Public Works soon. Leroy called attention to the ditch on the NE corner of Ten Mile and Chasteen Roads. Frank noted that drainage issues can be reported to the County via this link:
<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/FormCenter/Public-Works-13/Ask-a-QuestionReport-a-Problem-249>
- Buffers – Fred reported on the growing consensus in the Legislature to adopt a voluntary only approach to buffers.
 - WCD worksession followup – Frank produced an updated map and the data we requested last month. On the 75 miles of salmon bearing streams in the LWID: 50 miles of bank are estimated to be in the GREEN (35’+ buffer), 50 miles in the YELLOW (<35’ but some buffer present) and 50 miles in the RED (no buffer) categories. Frank also produced what the board asked in circling areas with high priority for improvement, low priority, and more information needed areas. These were discussed.
 - Temperature – Fred suggested more temperature data may be helpful to gain more acceptance on the value of buffers. Frank noted that there are more benefits from buffers than just shading streams. Cynthia later noted that the water quality samplers

record the temperature data at the testing sites. But no one has categorized the data. This might be an opportunity for solid background data.

- Frank reported the County has applied for funding for habitat improvements and culvert replacements.
 - Decision to keep the dialogue going between the WCD and the LWID leading towards a strategy for promoting more buffers and showing the benefits of smaller buffers.
- c. WCD Update – Brandy reviewed the progress occurring in Olympia and expected a substantial amount of funding would flow through the Conservation Commission to the conservation districts. There should also be the potential for flexible standards. A tour for legislators after the session is being organized.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Cynthia presented the most recent water quality data. She reported the County has a new hire who will be gathering the data and entering it into the map regularly.
- b. DNA testing – Exact Scientific Services is happy with their ability to define fecal coliform source. The only weakness in DNA identification at this point is human sources, so they would like funding for sampling of human sources (~\$2500) to add to their database. They have requested that funding from the county.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred noted the numbers are clearly pointed in the right direction. Some of the high numbers have fallen off the rolling list.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.laurelwid.com
- b. Ag Advisory Committee – Alan reported that the AAC has lost its County lead and hasn't met for awhile. He also noted that commercial ag is hardly represented there any longer. He encouraged farmers to participate and reenergize this committee.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Rich adjourned the meeting at 11:28. Next meeting is Monday, March 20 @ 1pm

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____