

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: November 14, 2022 Meeting, 10 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653364519?pwd=Zzc3RHlhNE9NZzBxQlY5Y1c5aEs4QT09>

Meeting ID: 876 5336 4519 Passcode: 841024

<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 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"/> Eric Sundstrom	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler
<input type="checkbox"/> Dakota Stranik	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob McWhoter	<input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia May
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:01.

### Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Jon moved to open the Board of Equalization, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously. With no one present to contest the assessments Jon moved to close the Board of Equalization, Leroy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of October 10, 2022 minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
L1122	AWB	Oct. - Dec. AWB	\$9,534.75
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$9,534.75</b>

Roger moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Leroy seconded, motion carried 4-0 with Jon abstaining.

### II. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Leroy is elected to another 3 year term. Congratulations and Thanks! We received no new nominations for Roger’s current spot. RCW 87.03.081 requires the County Council to appoint a qualified individual to the vacancy. We should select someone and begin that process. It would be a one year appointment requiring election renewal next fall. Several were mentioned. Ty Neeval is willing if no one else is interested. Roger will connect with Kevin Sterk.

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
  - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement – we continue to build support for this type of an approach as the major focus area with the state adjudication either replaced or incorporated in the settlement as only an element of the larger picture.
  - Ecology floating “Solutions Showcase” – learning from the Yakima example - the late October presentation to the Watershed Management Board was a ringing endorsement for our approach to resolving issues and a challenge to the adjudication first perspective.
  - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – forming an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted.
  - Ecology adjudication budget request and AWB response – we are preparing a letter to the Legislature that will be sent before Thanksgiving that challenges Ecology’s major

focus on adjudication funding and instead directs investment to broader management of issues including habitat, flooding, and water supply.

- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - AWB establishing – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – Bill is setting up a meeting with Ecology to advance this.
  - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – will occur once the details of the Exchange are developed. Hopefully by early spring.
  - Follow-up with key acquisition candidates as identified by the WID in earlier reviews of the water right database.

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

- a. Ditch maintenance
  - Four Mile DID – an invoice for the work just showed up this morning. It will require the full \$20k promised from the LWID. Leroy moved to have Henry prepare an Interfund Transfer from the LWID to DID #3 and have Mike sign it on the LWID's behalf, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Buffer requirements – Fred noted a more realistic attitude among fisheries advocates about the size of buffers. Nevertheless, there remain political pressures to mandate 200' buffers on all streams.
- c. WCD update – Cynthia remind the board that Disaster assistance funding is still available for flood damage costs and she expects this may be an ongoing opportunity for future disaster relief for farmers. It was also noted that the WCD request for a parcel assessment to provide a financial base for their programs passed County Council. This will be \$5/parcel on all ag parcels. Cities will also be assessed.
- d. Beaver trapping – Pete Smit is willing but access to some streams is a challenge and he isn't going to clear a path.

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

- a. Monitoring Results - Cynthia review the most recent data. It had some areas of concern but overall it was encouraging news.

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

- a. Website – [www.laurelwid.com](http://www.laurelwid.com)

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

Mike adjourned the meeting at 10:54. Next meetings are December 12 and January 9 with the December meeting likely cancelled.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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