

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – June 12, 2023, 10 AM

Board Attending:

Mike Boxx Rich Appel Jon Maberry
 Leroy Plagerman Eric Sundstrom

Others Attending:

Gavin Willis Henry Bierlink Alan Chapman
 Fred Likkel Jay Chennault Katie Faber
 Frank Corey Bill Clarke David Haggith
 Tristan Simons Brandy Reed

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

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:06.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. April 10 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 the Local Government Caucus of the WMB. Following a request from ag, the PUD is now the chair of the committee (position was previously held by the county). The caucus has agreed to allow the AWB to be a full participant as an ex-officio member of the committee. AWB has requested full membership in the WMB; that request is still pending.
- b. ECY has reported that the adjudication is not likely to be filed before early 2024. That may put some of the state funding for the WMB at risk, since the \$350k/year for local work is not available until after the adjudication has been filed.
- c. Fred provided some clarification on WID election procedures. As per the RCW 87.03, votes are by acreage, with 2 votes per every 5 acres.

3. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided an update on the FLIP process. The Nooksack mainstem between Nugents Corner and Everson has lost 30% of flow capacity since the 1990s due to sediment loading. FLIP is now looking at modeling various options for flood management. There seems to be some opinions shifting about sediment management.
- b. Leroy reported that the ditches at the corner of Ten Mile and Chasteen have been cleaned out, and that the system is draining that corner very effectively.
- c. Buffer work session

- i. The SCC has funding for buffers, and language in the proviso states that landowners must be fully compensated for land taken out of production. Now seems like a good time to send the letter to landowners in priority areas.
- ii. Parcel list was reviewed for accuracy. A few changes were noted.
- iii. The letter to landowners was previously approved, and will be sent. It will include contact info for Frank and Gavin.

4. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided an update on water quality via email.
 - i. WQ numbers look good overall. A few slightly elevated counts at Ten Mile & Chasteen potentially correlated to the presence of a large flock of ducks. Could also be connected to ditch cleanout work which occurred there.
- b. Fred provided an update on Portage Bay. Modeling shows that discharge from the Nooksack mainstem is diluted to between 3 and 20% by the time it reaches Portage Bay.
 - i. Fecal coliform numbers at Portage bay right now are at an all-time low.

5. Education / Communications

- a. 3 seats up for election in November (Mike, Rich, & Eric)
- b. Website – laurelwid.com

6. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None

7. Next Meetings

- a. Next meeting is Sep 11.

Mike adjourned the meeting at 10:44

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____