

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: December 13, 2021 Meeting, 10 am

Videoconference – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89989472730?pwd=NzhTVkkycmpHMEwrSmt3THdRR2Jidz09>
Meeting ID: 899 8947 2730 Passcode: 739398

<u> x </u> Leroy Plagerman	<u> x </u> Roger Blok	<u> t </u> Jon Maberry
<u> t </u> Rich Appel	<u> x </u> Mike Boxx	
<u> x </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> x </u> Fred Likkel	_____ Hank Kastner
_____ David Haggith	_____ Meg Harris	<u> t </u> Aneka Sweeney
<u> t </u> Alan Chapman	<u> t </u> Alexis Guddal	<u> x </u> Deanna Kangas
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:05.

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of November 8 Minutes
- Financial Report

Leroy moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Roger seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- Officer election – Jon moved to maintain the current slate of officers in 2022, Leroy seconded, motion carried unanimously. Mike will serve as President and AWB Board representative, Rich as Vice-President.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- Solutions Table
 - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating an early 2022 start
- Project List
 - Surface to ground conversion candidates – Leroy added another candidate to the list of potential conversions.
#2274475 S1-00284CWRIS 3/30/1971 Certificate 1 CFS 201 140 IR 157
Rich plans to meet with his neighbors to discuss their willingness to participate in the conversion of the surface right near Barrett Lake.
- Water Right acquisition candidates – will be addressed beginning in January.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- Flood response – what can the WID help with? Extended discussion of both the immediate response and the need and plan for long-term water management changes. Fred has been extremely busy in the emergency response. He commended the County EMS response headed by Sheriff Department appointee Wallace Kost. The discussion has now shifted from EMS to Public Works as the emergency efforts are minimized and long-term response planning and actions must take precedence. The board recognized the need for sediment management in the river but also recognized this is just one tool, must be done in conjunction with other management tools, and is not helpful to be the prime argument from ag on priority management changes. Upland storage of some nature seems to be a priority for both flood management and summer low flow issues. NOAA forecasting was a concern near Ferndale. It was not dependable.
- Ditch maintenance – begin addressing 2022 plans in January.
- Beaver trapping – no invoices from Pete Smit on the \$2,500 allocation.
- Flood Committee update – meetings cancelled in light of immediate flood needs.

V. Water Quality

- Monitoring Results – not available. December 1st monitoring was done.
- Ten Mile project report – Alan noted the project was going into hiatus. At least for awhile.

- c. Manure Storage and Transfer – Fred and Aneka noted that both flooding and the unusual amount of rain has caused several lagoons to fill beyond their capacity to handle the manure generated in the next months before the application period begins. There are funds available from NRCS and the Conservation Commission to cover some of the costs of transporting manure, trucking and pumping, to lagoons not in use.
- d. WCD changes – Meg Harris, who we relied on for quality data presentation and management, has moved on. As has Nicole Embertson. WCD plans to hire a replacement for Meg in January. A new General Manager, Brandy Reed, has also been hired.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.laurelwid.com
- b. AWB flyer draft – a draft of the flyer explaining what AWB has done and plans to be doing was reviewed. The board made several suggestions and was urged to continue to suggest edits. The plan will be to send this, along with a brief cover letter, to all WID property owners in early February.
- c. Family Farmers Rally – likely in February.
- d. WCD programs upcoming – Farm Expo – April 23, Manure Mgt training – January 20.

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Sub-irrigation – Fred and Henry met with Scarlett and Dakota of the WCD about a research program they are developing along with WSU’s Gabe La Hue. This is exploring potential locations and farmers interested in reversing drainage in the summer to sub-irrigate crops.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Mike adjourned the meeting at 11:20. Next meeting is January 10.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____