

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 11, 2019 Meeting, 10 am - noon

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

<u> </u> x <u> </u> Leroy Plagerman	<u> </u> o <u> </u> Roger Blok	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Jon Maberry
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Rich Appel	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Mike Boxx	
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Fred Likkel	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Hank Kastner
<u> </u> David Haggith	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Stacey Beier	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Aneka Sweeney
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Alan Chapman	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Eric Sundstrom	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Sam Merrick
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Chris Elder	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Bob McWhoter	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Jeff Cedarbaum

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

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 14 Minutes
 - b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*
- Leroy moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Rich seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administration

- a. Potential candidates for future board positions – Henry circulated a list of parcel owners within the WID with more than 10 acres of land. The idea of having a list of interested individuals that would be willing to receive and review the agendas and attend occasional meetings was advanced. Henry also asked for correction in ownership as the list was generated from a database over 5 years old.
- b. Strategic Planning – review annual priorities on website, Management Plan – adding the water quality work with Deer Creek and Ferndale and the sponsorship of the WCD Speaker Series was suggested.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management – Henry reported
 - Expect Ecology funding – should know mid-March
 - Puget Sound Partnership Near Term Action funding possible
 - One of the elements in the WRIA #1 5-year Action Plan
 - Meetings to set up where, when, and how DBM occurs
 - Likely beginning in Drayton, Bertrand
 - Establish a Core Group that works together in each drainage – 2 WID, 2 County, 2 Tribe, PUD, WDFW, DOE.
- b. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - PU continuing to work on update to 2005 Plan
 - Management Board returning to implementing 5-year workplan

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. FLIP process – looking for pilot projects – Fred updated the Board on the FLIP process. It has been slowed a bit by not having high flows this winter to provide needed data. Recent emphasis is on identifying potential early action items and determining which should be prioritized. Fred reminded the Board that it is quite likely Whatcom PW Flood Division will receive state funding which includes \$600k for an ag/fish/flood project(s). He is challenging WIDs with river frontage to generate potential projects. Ideas discussed were tidegates on Cougar Creek similar to the Clarksen Creek project at Appels. And eliminating ditches on the Noteboom land and creating swales instead.

V. Water Quality

- a. Ten Mile Project report

- April 10 TCWP meeting – NWQI report – Aneka noted that NRCS and Purdue University would be reporting on the national study which included the Ten Mile.
 - Ten Mile Creek work report – Bob worked with Joel and Darrell (NSEA) to follow-up on the work done last fall near the Chasteen Road. Involving NSEA in the early project planning was suggested as they would be the contractors finishing the tree plantings. Removing the slash piles was encouraged. Fred will contact Baldev.
- b. Monitoring Results – Sam and Jeff noted they had taken 30 samples near non-dairy livestock farms with 7 exceeding the water quality standards. Regular monitoring sites were generally low in the dry and cold January/February.
 - c. Deer Creek concern – Aneka reported Erika was working on setting up a meeting with Ferndale.
 - d. Portage Bay – on January 23rd the opening of the spring closure was announced. WFF is providing a press release celebrating this success story.
 - e. Vigilance – Fred reviewed some pictures WSDA had provided at the Manure Mgt. Training session in January. Much has approved but there are still issues that need continued attention. The water quality alert letter sent out by the WID in January was also noted.
 - f. Ecology Nitrate monitoring project – Fred reviewed a presentation Ecology had provided on nitrates in north Whatcom groundwater. They did a major follow-up study to the 1997 report in 2018. Nitrates were trending lower but there were still issues along the BC border. Ecology is seeking cooperative landowners in the Bertrand and North Lynden WIDs to provide them sites for monitoring wells.
 - g. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife
 - h. Report on landowner contacts – 2 landowners were contacted. There was discussion about who is the best first contact. WID members are willing to help when our efforts are likely to help remedy risky practices.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.laurelwid.com
- b. Ecology newsletter – Jeff and Sam noted Ecology had sent out notices to over 700 non-dairy livestock owners in Whatcom County, 63 in Laurel. The notices were to alert livestock owners to water quality concerns and programs that could help.
- c. Conservation Easements – Chris reminded the board that there was an infusion of funding for the PDR program. There is a September 1 deadline for this round of applications. He expects the WIDs and AWB to be involved in ranking the applications for where they will do the most for ag protection.
- d. Open Public Meetings Act training was provided for Board members

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

April 8

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____