

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 14, 2022 Meeting, 10 am

Videoconference – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81748874048?pwd=ckFCaXRuRjRDK0ZEU29nZlplKQzk1QT09>
 Meeting ID: 817 4887 4048 Passcode: 800148

<u> x </u> Leroy Plagerman	<u> o </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	<u> t </u> Jay Chennault
<u> </u> David Haggith	<u> t </u> Katie Faber	<u> </u> Aneka Sweeney
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:06.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 10 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
L0222	Ag Water Board	January, February	\$6,356.50
L0222	WA State Auditor	Assessment Audit	\$791.70
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$7,148.20

Leroy moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Jon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water Supply Team update
 - Legal – Water Supply Team advocating for contract with legal team
 - Would focus on building alternatives to adjudication – federal, settlement options
 - Funds would come from the AWB legal reserve fund but more may be needed from each WID to fund the 2022 contract. The budget for additional \$30k was reviewed with the LWID contributing \$3,657 from its Project Fund. The board recognized this was a possibility at budgeting time and was Ok with making this transfer should the AWB make a formal request.
- b. Solutions Table
 - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating a March 2022 start
 - Linking with potential proviso supporting federal involvement in water mgt. (flood, supply, habitat)
 - Legislature seems amenable to expanding the scope of the Solutions Table and proving more funding.
- c. Project List
 - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted for \$8.5 million over 7 years. We expect it will be competitive and that we will hear by late summer.
- d. Water Right acquisition candidates
 - The final review of groundwater rights was conducted. Jay and Henry will prepare a list of water rights where we are uncertain if the rights will be adequately defended and suggest some options the WID board may consider for communicating with these parcel owners.
 - Next step will be to determine who and how to contact.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Flood response
 - Support for a media story with flood images and stories – Bertrand & Drayton agreed to add \$5k to the \$10k approved by the Sumas WID. Fred has been working with the Small Cities who are highly motivated towards action. He is seeking good contacts in BC to expand the discussion.

- b. Ditch maintenance
 - Fourmile spot clean – Paul Sangha told Rich this was being addressed by the DID.
 - The Sumas WID is inviting Joel to attend a future meeting to brainstorm how we can help each other to address the drainage concerns caused by the flood. It was suggested to invite Joel and Whatcom County road dept. for the final 30 minutes of the Sumas March 8th meeting and the first 30 minutes of the S Lynden WID. Other WIDs are invited to join this conversation.
 - Ten Mile near Ferndale – Mike talked with a landowner concerned about the drainage just east of Barrett Lake.
- c. Cougar Creek tidegate – this project continues to peak the interest of the fish managers.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred presented the recent sampling data which was generally good. One high count on the January 10th monitoring. It was noted the Ten Mile Project team was no longer collecting data.
- b. DNA testing - David has obtained a good set of samples that may be able to isolate the avian contribution to fecal numbers.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – no update as sampling had not occurred during the flooding.
- d. Report on landowner contacts – A Hemmi Road farm has been issued and order by WSDA.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.laurelwid.com
- b. AWB flyer and draft cover letter – 217 letters to be mailed. Final edits were made.
- c. Family Farmers Rally will be set in March or April once more clarity on the Water Supply Team legal contract is in place.

VI. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. [Audit Report](#) – State conducted assessment audit – a clean report from the Auditor was reviewed.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Mike adjourned the meeting at 11:33. Next meeting is March 14. Jon noted he would not be able to attend.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____