

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: September 13, 2021 Meeting, 10 am

AWB Conference Room and Videoconference  
 Zoom Meeting ID: 843 8034 5777 Passcode: 302986

<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Leroy Plagerman	<u>  </u> o <u>  </u> Roger Blok	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Jon Maberry
<u>  </u> t <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> Jay Chennault
<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Alan Chapman	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Dakota Stranik	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Katie Faber
<u>  </u> Bob Seaman	<u>  </u> Bob McWhoter	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Bill Clarke
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:02.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of June 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
L0921	Ag Water Board	September, October AWB	\$7,110.20
L0921	Enduris	Self-insurance	\$2,952.00
	<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>		<b>\$10,062.20</b>

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. AWB Water Supply issues - Bill
  - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report indicates parties are not “ripe”, suggests a “solutions table”
  - Adjudication – seems hard to stop, exploring ways to mitigate the damage
  - Legal preparation
    1. Executive sessions for WID Boards – pending litigation – at Oct mtg.
    2. Working with private attorneys to find the most effective structure to help all farmers with water right concerns.
    3. Standing in adjudication – have WIDs seek interest in a water right
- b. AESI contract – Jay
  - Water right list – AESI has prepared a list of water rights in the Laurel WID and is working on merging this list with the current parcel layer so that the Board will be able to see the current owner of the water right. There are 215 groundwater rights and 40 surface rights. Goal is to ensure that all rights are in use and fully prepared for adjudication. We will examine the rights where use is not as clear or use is minimal as potential candidates for acquisition, transfers, leases, etc. Reconciling the Ecology database and County Parcel layer is a current challenge AESI is working through.
  - Request for infrastructure projects – \$20m targeted to infrastructure in Whatcom, other federal funds are flowing through grant programs like those under the Bureau of Reclamation. AESI prepared a spreadsheet describing the ideas for projects that have been considered in the past 30 years. The board was asked to review them and add new ideas that might be advanced. A rough budget was applied for each project.
- c. AWB Budgeting – the initial 2022 AWB budget will be drafted next week for the WIDs to consider in October. Investing into the legal work needed to protect all ag water rights is needed but not yet fully understood. Getting an idea of what may be an acceptable range for the AWB legal work was discussed.

### **III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. Beaver trapping – Mike talked with Steve Carter who has requested help with beaver.
- b. Flood Committee update – Fred has a meeting later this week.

### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – Dakota reported on recent numbers with few concerns. There were some high counts in TenMile in August. The PIC program has a vigorous fall outreach strategy geared more to small farms and rural residents.
- b. DNA project – Avian project – Kent will present the results at the South Lynden WID Tuesday. Fred reported that there is a sense that we are making progress on isolating sources.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – best news is that data is suggesting a rainfall based closure rather than a calendar closure and that DOH is beginning to consider this.

### **V. Education/Communications**

- a. [www.Laurelwid.com](http://www.Laurelwid.com)
- b. WCD News – Dakota reported there were hopes that a new Executive Director would be identified this fall.
- c. WFF – Fred is considering combining the traditional farmer rally with an event where landowners could get questions answered concerning the adjudication.

### **VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38. Next meeting is October 11.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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