

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: October 11, 2021 Meeting, 10 am

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 850 5410 2197 Passcode: 652363

<u> </u> t	Leroy Plagerman	<u> </u> x	Roger Blok	<u> </u> o	Jon Maberry
<u> </u> t	Rich Appel	<u> </u> x	Mike Boxx		
<u> </u> x	Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> x	Fred Likkel	<u> </u> t	Jay Chennault
<u> </u> t	Alan Chapman	<u> </u> t	Bill Clarke		Kasey Cykler
	<i>x = present</i>		<i>o = absent with notice</i>		<i>t = teleconference</i>

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:03.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of September 13 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

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

II. Executive Session – Mike called the meeting into Executive Session at 10:06. Discussion with legal counsel on authority of WIDs and potential litigation – up to 30 minutes. (Board members only). Mike ended the Executive Session and returned to the open board meeting at 10:33.

III. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Roger and Jon need to be nominated. Roger indicated he was not likely to serve another term. The board will be encouraging others to apply for this position.
- b. AWB Budget request – lower than 2021, encouragement for WIDs to budget for water right acquisition, project development, and legal reserve to address adjudication.
- c. 2022 Workplan & Budget
 - Resolution 2021-1 – Setting the 2022 Assessment Rate and Budget
 - Resolution 2020-2 – Adopting the 2022 Assessment Roll
 - November 8th Board of Equalization

DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE – *all Watershed Improvement Districts*

Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

- 1) *Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – two positions in Bertrand, one in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, one in South Lynden, and one in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o'clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.*
- 2) *Inspect the 2022 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in Laurel will be heard at 10am, November 8th; for Bertrand at 2pm, November 8th; for Sumas at 1pm, November 9th; for South Lynden at 3pm, November 9th; for North Lynden at 9am, November 16th; and for Drayton at 3pm, November 16th, all at the District's office or via Zoom. Contact the WID administrator for access to the meeting@ info@agwaterboard.com. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 12th to November 5th.*

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts' offices located at 204 Hawley Street, Lynden.

Public Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 13, 20, 27

The Board stressed the need to show value to farmers for the assessments collected. Any increase should be justified by additional services provided. The large increase planned for our project budget has been targeted for items such as legal research on flow claims, acquiring water rights for the WID, and providing technical information for support of water rights claims. A letter to all WID parcel owners should make the purpose of the increase clear.

Leroy moved to set the 2022 assessment rate at \$8/acre, Rich seconded, motion failed 2-2. Roger moved to set the rate at \$10/acre, Rich seconded. After some discussion Roger moved to amend the motion to \$9/acre, Rich seconded. The vote on approving the amendment passed unanimously and the vote on the \$9/acre assessment rate also passed unanimously.

IV. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate
 - Summary of legal status, direction – the information gleaned from the Executive Session concerning legitimate roles for the WID in adjudications was reviewed.
 - October 21st Watershed Mgt Board mtg
 - Solutions Table discussion with Jay and Maia
 - Project proposals from Tribes, PUD, Land Trust, and AWB
- b. Project List – add, edit, prioritize – focus on surface to ground conversions – Jay provided a list of surface water rights tied to current ownership. The board was challenged to review this list with consideration of the size of the right (likely over .5 cfs to significant enough) and complexity of making the transfer (fewer unrelated owners).
- c. Water Rights list – develop strategy to obtain rights – Jay will provide a list of rights tied to current ownership within the month. The board is challenged to locate rights that may be underused or in danger of relinquishment.

V. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Beaver trapping – Steve Carter has not called back
- b. Flood Committee update – FLIP meetings back on. Cougar Creek floodgate planned for next year.

VI. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – some high counts in late September tied to high rainfall. WCD and the PIC Program doing a lot of fall education for small lot animal farmers.
- b. Ten Mile project report – Alan noted the sampling had been hindered by COVID.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update

VII. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.laurelwid.com
- b. Family Farmers Rally – November 17th

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Meeting was adjourned at 11:46. Next meeting is November 8.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____