

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 14, 2024

## Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

<b>Board – Present</b>	<b>Board – Absent with Notice</b>
Rich Appel Eric Sundstrom Jon Maberry (t)	Mike Boxx Leroy Plagerman

<b>Staff and Consultants</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization / Affiliation</b>
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Jessica Peila (t)	AESI
Bill Clarke (t)	Clarke Law
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers

<b>Other Guests</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization / Affiliation</b>
Alan Chapman (t)	Whatcom Conservation District

## Proceedings

Rich called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from September 9 meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports were reviewed.
- d. Voucher L-Gen-0924 in the amount of \$5,659.58 was reviewed.
- e. Eric moved to approve the consent agenda. Jon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Administration

- a. Jon’s term of office ends this year. He indicated that he would be willing to serve another term.
  - i. Eric moved to nominate Jon for election. Rich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
  - ii. Gavin noted that an advertisement notifying WID members that they can run for office will run in the Lynden Tribune for the next 3 Wednesdays.
- b. AWB 2025 budget request was reviewed. Gavin noted that the request was slightly less than anticipated due to Ramsey not being selected to the steering committee.
- c. The board looked at and discussed budget options and an assessment rate to meet that budget.
  - i. Jon moved to approve Resolution 2024-03 to approve the budget and set the 2025 assessment rate at \$8.00 per acre. Eric seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. The board reviewed the proposed 2025 assessment roll.
  - i. Eric moved to approve Resolution 2024-04 to adopt the 2025 assessment roll. Jon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
  - ii. The November 11 meeting will also serve as the board of equalization.

### **3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply**

- a. Bill provided an adjudication update. Looking like an early 2026 filing deadline. Currently floating three legislative options for next session: increased technical assistance funding for Whatcom County and Ag Water Board, funding for the county to hire a consultant to look at settlement options, and a claims filing reopening for the Nooksack Basin.
- b. Gavin noted that water rights office hours will be held on October 24 and December 6. The signup form is on the Ag Water Board website.

### **4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood**

- a. Fred provided an update on FLIP work. Progress is slow; Lummi is pushing for a Reach 1 design process.
  - i. Cougar Creek project has funding secured and is just waiting on permitting at this point. Construction likely in 2025.
- b. Drainage issues on Four Mile Creek were discussed. Gavin noted that DD#3 currently does not have any commissioners. The WID had previously investigated a merger with the DD, but there are approx. 200 acres within the DD but outside of the WID that would prevent that happening. Bill has suggested legislation that would allow the merger to proceed subject to county council approval even if a small percentage of DD acreage is outside of the WID. Gavin will work with landowners on Four Mile Creek to investigate drainage issues further and try and get commissioners on the DD board in the meantime.

### **5. Water Quality**

- a. Cynthia provided a WQ update by email. Moderate counts throughout the district, with one high count in a tributary of Deer Creek. Discussion followed of that site; unclear what source of high count would be, as board members not aware of any manure spreading in that area. Fred noted that other counts are typical for this time of year and not a point of concern.

### **6. Communications / Education**

- a. Whatcom Family Farmers will be hosting another water rights info evening on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds.
- b. WFF annual Farmer Rally will be on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **7. Next Meeting**

- a. Next meeting dates are November 11 and December 9.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:49 am.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by Eric N. Surchstrom