

Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – November 11, 2024

Attendees

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

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

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Sarah Faubion (t)	AESI
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers

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

Proceedings

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

1. Board of Equalization

- a. Mike opened board of equalization.
- b. No one present to contest their equalizations.
- c. Rich moved to close the board of equalization. Eric seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. The agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from the October 14 meeting were reviewed.
- c. The financial report was reviewed.
- d. Voucher L.Gen.1024 in the amount of \$9,623.66 was reviewed.
- e. Rich moved to approve the consent agenda. Eric seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Administration

- a. Congratulations to Jon on being elected for another 3-year term.

4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided adjudication update. Bill continues to work on legislative proposals, including a recent meeting with ECY staff. The next court hearing is Dec 3 – we expect that the court will approve the claims form and issue the summons at that hearing. ECY has indicated that they expect the summons to be sent out over a period of 3-4 months, with a filing deadline of May 2026.

- i. More water rights office hours are also available on December 6. Sarah will follow up with AESI to add additional sessions. Gavin will send board list of parcel owners of 20+ acres to note who to push to sign up for water rights office hours.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided a FLIP update. ACE seems to have withdrawn their jurisdictional concerns about the Cougar Creek project, so that should be moving forward now.
- b. Drainage issues on Four Mile Creek were discussed. Discussion included identification of problem areas, membership concerns with DD#3 board. Gavin will continue to work on setting up a meeting with Paul Sangha and WDFW staff, and will include Kevin Sterk and Leroy in discussions/meetings about a work plan.

6. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided WQ results via email. October 21 test date had >4.5" of rain in the previous 72 hours, resulting in high counts throughout the basin – counts ranged from 220 to 1600. Fred noted that a 25-year 24-hour rainfall event was nearly reached – when those rainfall levels are reached those WQ metrics are not included in the record. Fred is seeking clarification on what rainfall levels trigger that, and will look into other time windows that might indicate that we actually did trigger that event.

7. Other Items

- a. Alan noted that there is an election coming up for the CD. Encouraged people to declare their candidacy and to be sure to vote. January 10th is the candidate application deadline.

8. Next Meeting

- a. The next scheduled meeting dates are December 9 and January 13.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____