

# Laurel Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – February 10, 2025

## Attendees

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

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

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Tania Grim	Ag Water Board
Sarah Faubion (t)	AESI
Frank Corey	Whatcom Conservation District
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers

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

## Proceedings

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:03

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. The agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from the January 13 meeting were reviewed.
- c. The financial report was reviewed.
- d. Voucher L.Gen.0225 in the amount of \$5591.67 was reviewed.
- e. Rich moved to approve the consent agenda. Leroy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Administration

- a. Jon will sign the Oath of Office at the March meeting.

### 3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin shared a legislative update provided via email by Bill.
  - i. SB 5212, which would allow pre-code water users without a statement of claim to file in the adjudication, is on the Senate’s consent calendar, and will likely see floor action within the next few weeks.
  - ii. Bill met with the new water resources staff from the Governor’s office and expresses the need for more collaboration to lead to a settlement process.

- iii. A board member asked about the likelihood of a settlement. Gavin noted that changes in the state administration are likely beneficial in that regard. Fred noted that settlements are a generally slow process.
- b. Fred will be organizing a water rights education session for landowners in March.
- c. The AWB meeting with federal lobbyists was discussed.

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

- a. Frank provided an update on Cougar Creek.
  - i. The project has gone out to bid, closes Feb 18. Permitting is on schedule. Federal funds are already obligated and will not be affected by recent federal administration actions.
- b. An update was given on 4 Mile Creek.
  - i. Gavin will check in with Paul regarding Beaver trapping now that duck season is over.
  - ii. Gavin will check in with DD#3 commissioners about cost sharing the beaver trapping.
- c. DD#3 is back up with 3 appointed members.
- d. Frank gave an update on buffer projects.
  - i. It would be worthwhile to reach out to the executive director of SCC to encourage them to keep the program in its current form.

#### **5. Water Quality**

- a. Trevor provided a water quality update through email. Numbers in Laurel WID looked good across the board. There were some high marine counts in November and December.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

- a. Next scheduled meeting is March 10.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:51 am.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by Mike Box