

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – September 10, 2024

Attendees

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

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Jeff DeJong Landon VanDyk Rod VandeHoef Ed Blok Pablo Esquivel	

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Elizabeth Link	Whatcom Conservation District
Sarah Faubion (t)	AESI
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
John Courtney (t)	
Dan Noteboom	

Proceedings

Landon called the meeting to order at 3:01pm

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. June 11 minutes were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports were reviewed.
- d. Voucher SL.Gen.0724a in the amount of \$3,440.00 was reviewed.
- e. Voucher SL.Gen.0724b in the amount of \$8,517.67 was reviewed.
- f. Voucher SL.Gen.0824 in the amount of \$7,669.42 was reviewed.
- g. Jeff moved to approve the consent agenda. Rod seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an adjudication update. ECY has filed their proposed claims form, with a hearing to approve it on September 26th. Expect that summons will go out in late 2024 and into early 2025. Looking ahead to the legislative session, two current potential asks: additional funding for technical assistance for claims filing, and funding for WMB to hire a consultant to provide an assessment of federal settlement process options, including identifying barriers and obstacles.
- b. Gavin shared that AWB intends to contract with a federal lobbyist firm in 2025, and is seeking feedback from the WIDs due to budget impacts.
 - i. Board supported the idea as a good use of WID funds and reasonable value based on the cost per acre

3. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided a FLIP update. Things are moving along slowly with the modeling. Lummi are beginning to object to the Widen the Funnel concept.
- b. Drainage of Mormon Ditch at Hampton Rd following county roads work was discussed. Fred will follow up with the county to try and get more information.

4. Water Quality

- a. Elizabeth provided a water quality update.
 - i. July 29 rain events had some high counts, August 6 follow-up testing was highly variable. High counts on follow-up testing likely related to increased wildlife near streams and low flow conditions.
- b. Shellfish harvest areas have been upgraded. Approx. 360 acres upgraded to year-round harvest, and seasonal closures have been reduced from 4 months to 3.
- c. Gavin noted that if farmers see significant waterfowl presence in their fields, they can take a picture and text it to him along with location info and he will add it to the Whatcom Wildlife Tracking database.

5. Education / Communications

- a. WFF is hosting another water rights info evening on October 22nd at NWWF.
- b. WFF is hosting their annual farmer rally on November 20th at NWWF.

6. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for October 8.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:22pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

