

# Notes

## Whatcom Watershed Improvement Districts Work Session

Steakhouse 9 - Lynden, WA

March 20, 2015 – 10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Facilitator – Ray Ledgerwood

### Meeting Purpose:

- Identify strategic priorities in each WID, discuss coordination on certain priorities, and learn techniques for comprehensive plans.

### Opening Comments

Come together to see what we have done, what we want to do as WIDs...individually and collectively.

### Watershed Improvement District (WID) Reports of What Has Been Done since April 2015

WID	Report
Bertrand WID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raised assessment to have revenue for technical and legal assistance</li><li>• Surface to ground water</li><li>• New tide gate on Schell Creek</li><li>• Active on Lummi negotiations</li><li>• Streamflow augmentation project</li><li>• Funding for ground water model</li><li>• Guide Meridian ditch work</li><li>• Water quality sampling</li><li>• Worked with Heather on resource inventory</li><li>• Culvert replacements</li></ul>
North Lynden WID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smallest WID</li><li>• Water quality testing with county...PIC program...very intense</li><li>• Farmers in area substantiated by monitoring indicating Canada issues</li><li>• City of Lynden working on getting septic systems connected and/or addressed</li><li>• Ditch maintenance on local ditches...difference in water quality sampling improvement</li><li>• Contacts with neighbors regarding practices</li><li>• Spray ditches annually for Reed Canary Grass</li></ul>
Laurel WID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have discussions on problem areas, identify areas with issues...go out and talk with land owners</li><li>• Water quality reporting...challenge in bracketing...showing where the problems were noted</li><li>• Workshop on horse management</li><li>• Developing a 5 year plan</li><li>• Developing relationships with other groups</li><li>• Supporting the bigger water board</li><li>• Working with 10 mile group</li></ul>

<p>South Lynden WID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality testing...some things did not make sense</li> <li>• Worked on known problems</li> <li>• Worked on water banking concept, storage of water for later use, deep well possibilities,</li> <li>• Protecting water rights</li> <li>• Comprehensive plan development</li> <li>• Talking with fellow farmers regarding water quality</li> <li>• Drainage issues and river running through our area</li> <li>• Ditch spraying</li> <li>• Possibilities of improving drainage of the river</li> <li>• Supporting AWB</li> </ul>
<p>Sumas WID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough water testing...added sites</li> <li>• Interesting monitoring information</li> <li>• Share water quality data with farmers</li> <li>• Mapping project with help from Heather</li> <li>• Looking at the various areas to do work</li> <li>• Looking at a management plan for the WID with available funding</li> <li>• Outreach lunch in Sumas to take our work to the people in the WID...shared results of water testing</li> <li>• Tour scheduled cancelled because of snow...when Keith is available to see which potential projects are out there</li> <li>• Did drainage work with local drainage district</li> <li>• Looking at prioritizing projects</li> <li>• Met with RESources to work on quality monitoring - elephants in room</li> </ul>
<p>Drayton WID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Birch Bay Sewer and Water and other partner organizations and specialists</li> <li>• Deep water aquifer project and water resource data</li> <li>• Looking at water resource potential, water rights, supply issues</li> <li>• Water quality monitoring</li> <li>• Drayton Harbor shellfish beds opened up...credit due...goal</li> <li>• Conservation workshop</li> <li>• WIDS do more than just the projects we are talking about</li> <li>• AWB work (coordination) with the tribes</li> <li>• Work on legal and political issues...Whatcom Family Farmers...important that we formed WIDs when we did</li> <li>• Disappointed in another organization with a recent assertion that we have not done anything</li> <li>• Entering a most critical phase of negotiation with the tribes</li> <li>• Water conservation, water quality projects completed</li> <li>• Work with Whatcom Family Farmers regarding most serious issues, influence</li> </ul>
<p>Resource Specialists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Got our pollution prevention program going in county</li> <li>• PUD and RH2 worked on water quality report</li> <li>• First 3 phase of ground water data collection</li> <li>• Whatcom Water Supply working group</li> <li>• PUD on drought contingency planning effort</li> <li>• Lummi infrastructure study</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate water supply efforts...merging boards...system wide improvement of levies</li> <li>• Comprehensive plan update</li> <li>• Purchase development rights program (issue)</li> <li>• Threshold on impervious surfaces (issue that could damage agriculture)...meeting this Thursday</li> </ul>
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**Summary Whatcom WIDs Strategic Priorities (revised 3.20.17)**

WID	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
Bertrand WID	Water Rights	Water Quality	Drainage	Flood Management
Drayton WID	Water Rights	Water Quality	Comprehensive Plan	
North Lynden WID	Drainage	Water Quality	Water Rights	Flood Management
Laurel WID	Water Rights	Drainage	Water Quality	Flood Management
South Lynden WID	Water Quality	Water Rights	Drainage	Flood Management
Sumas WID	Water Quality	Water Rights	Agricultural Protection	Communication, Outreach, Education

**Top Activities for Upcoming Year**

If we had time, money, energy for one, then that one and one more, those two...etc.

WID	Top Activities for Upcoming Year
Bertrand WID	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water augmentation project finished</li> <li>2. Surface to groundwater transfers...support legislation and legal effort</li> <li>3. Continue water quality testing to bring quality back</li> <li>4. Update Comprehensive plan</li> </ol>
Drayton WID	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to work on deep water aquifer...move beyond just the exploration...to supply or mitigation of new water rights</li> <li>2. Continue to monitor water quality and find hot spots</li> <li>3. Working with farmers on legal avenues to move water around...spreading, piping, water bank, transfers</li> <li>4. Public relations...family farmers to dispute misinformation</li> </ol>
North Lynden WID	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 5 year permit for drainage maintenance...Find the funding for development of the 5 year plan...chase paperwork</li> <li>2. Continue our water quality work with Whatcom County Public Works, and Lynden</li> <li>3. Work on culvert repair/replacement</li> </ol>
Laurel WID	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the AWB for efforts in legal negotiation and lobbying</li> <li>2. Develop a 5 year plan for drainage</li> <li>3. Set up the DNA testing for water quality</li> </ol>
South Lynden WID	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with resources on DNA sequencing</li> <li>2. Continue water quality testing</li> <li>3. Work on water rights...obtain, distribute water rights...lobby to get it done</li> </ol>

Sumas WID	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ditch cleaning project</li> <li>2. Continued water quality testing</li> <li>3. Outreach and education with our land owners</li> </ol>
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### Strategies for Working Together

Strategy	Lead
<b>Communication/Outreach</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserving the “one voice” outreach...continue work with key partners...work together to defend agriculture and get the word out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whatcom Family Farmers – Fred, specific partners – eg public affairs people in organizations</li> <li>• Story specific for information</li> <li>• Brad &amp; Rich</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication and community outreach...message in positive way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See above</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat for species...telling people what farmers are doing to benefit habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to identify legal access to water supply...acquiring, getting water where it needs to go</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill, Marty, Henry, Chuck, Greg</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work together on tribal negotiations on water quality and supply</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiation Team, Fred, Greg</li> <li>• Needs expanded and probably a different team as supply is addressed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal challenges, and holding them off</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry</li> </ul>
<b>Quality</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work together on funding for and implementation of DNA testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David – N3, Landon, Kent,</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality projects and how it effects our industry...improving and communicating xx</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fred,</li> <li>• See above</li> </ul>
<b>Drainage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get permits faster and eliminate some of the paper work – 5 year Programmatic Permits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karin, Frank, Joel, Henry, Fred</li> </ul>
<b>Supply/Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quantity projects and ability to have water long term for future generations...mitigation banking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry</li> </ul>
<b>Organizational/Administrative</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking legislation, rule making, agendas, and impacts at County, State, Federal levels...agriculture representation on committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry, Bill, Fred, partner individuals</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize the influence system of collective WIDs including messengers and skills development (training)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whatcom Family Farmers</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize the listing of committees and groups to get agriculture representation on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry, Fred and members</li> </ul>

## Expert Resources

<p>Chuck Lindsay, AESI - hydrogeology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrologist</li> <li>• 30 years' experience...</li> <li>• Identification, ground water supply</li> <li>• Water right evaluations</li> <li>• Working for County</li> <li>• Stream augmentation work</li> <li>• Surface to ground water transfer information</li> <li>• Development of deep water – Drayton</li> <li>• Water rights guidance manual for farmers</li> </ul>
<p>Jon Hutchings – WCPW Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public works director</li> <li>• Drainage, culverts, roads</li> <li>• River and road program</li> <li>• Natural resources and water resources</li> <li>• Expectation and growing number of services that county provides...county council passed water action plan</li> <li>• Work with industry on water quality</li> <li>• No new dollars...fixed revenue from flood control district...action plan developed...correction on revenue side needed</li> </ul>
<p>Joel Ingram – WDFW hydraulics permits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with fish and fish habitat for past 12 years...4 years in Whatcom County</li> <li>• Salmon recovery</li> <li>• Permitting for hydraulic</li> <li>• 5 year plans – certainty about what is expected by WDFW...planning and process work beforehand...revisit each five years</li> <li>• Windows of work</li> <li>• Beaver management, trash racks,</li> <li>• Project work, agreements, streamline process</li> </ul>
<p>Aneka Sweeney – WCD Education Specialist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Packet of information...Conservation District</li> <li>• How to best develop programmatic permits</li> <li>• If you need assistance with projects, information</li> <li>• Assist land managers with conservation choices</li> <li>• 5 year planning...preservation of future of farming</li> <li>• Develop educational program to preserve farming in Whatcom County</li> <li>• Farm Speaker series in cooperation with AWB and WCD...different subject matter</li> <li>• Education in schools about natural resources</li> <li>• Communication plan development</li> <li>• Water quality education group</li> <li>• Grant writing support for partnership programs</li> <li>• Insurance for Farm Tours</li> </ul>
<p>Jim Bucknell/Andy Dunn – RH2 Engineering – water right preparation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil engineering firm</li> <li>• Water rights expertise</li> <li>• 35 years' experience with Ecology...change applications</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand water law, statutes, regulations, and know the people</li> <li>• Drought contingency plan, water bank, water exchange</li> <li>• Lummi projects...water for in stream and out of stream – how to move water around for projects...resolving issues</li> <li>• Study with PUD on water rights</li> </ul>
<p>Heather MacKay/Cheryl Lovato Niles – FHB Consulting – plan development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Henry for several years</li> <li>• Banking and trading of water</li> <li>• Whatcom County – Ag watershed data...copy for each WIDs</li> <li>• Worked with each WID regarding priorities and restoration of flow and habitat...need for farming and need for habitat</li> <li>• Worked with farmers on planning resources</li> <li>• Detailed priorities, reference maps, species, ag lands cover...available for each WID</li> <li>• Working with Sumas WID on action plan</li> </ul>
<p>Erika Douglas – WCPW – water quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality monitoring...bacteria driven</li> <li>• Drainage into key areas</li> <li>• Working with Canada</li> <li>• Routine monitoring throughout drainages in Whatcom County</li> <li>• Seeing water quality areas of concern...focused areas...North Lynden, Nooksack,</li> <li>• Seeing what is going on...pollution prevention program...on hot spots, practice application</li> <li>• Not just one source of pollution...talking with folks about various pollution sources</li> <li>• Partners with Whatcom CD</li> <li>• Success in Drayton Harbor...attributed to community coming together...whole combination of community coming together</li> </ul>
<p>Steve Jilk – PUD #1 General Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County wide economic development program</li> <li>• County wide water planning</li> <li>• City administrator...Lynden</li> <li>• One of three agencies with authority to operate and manage water resources in Whatcom County</li> <li>• Took on electricity supply...took on water rights...service of water to BP refinery</li> <li>• Have most water rights in county</li> <li>• Separate irrigation water rights</li> <li>• All of Cherry Point, Ferndale – West, I-5 Grandview Industrial Park</li> <li>• Engaged in watershed planning board</li> <li>• Try to play a problem solving role in water quality</li> <li>• Worked with Bellingham and partners on Lower Nooksack strategy...water supply plan...broad 40,000 ft level of water resources tied to planning</li> <li>• Water supply group</li> </ul>

<p>Kent Oostra – Exact Scientific Lab</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Whatcom CD</li> <li>• E.coli as monitoring</li> <li>• DNA sequencing – non targeted</li> <li>• \$20,000 in research regarding DNA testing specific to related</li> <li>• Running fecal Whatcom CD</li> <li>• Looking at Nooksack from mountains to ocean</li> <li>• Bio indicators and what profile is</li> <li>• Tracking sources for \$125 per sample</li> <li>• Needing to build a data set now</li> <li>• FDA requiring this type of testing</li> </ul>
<p>David – N3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drayton WID Board</li> <li>• Feedback loop is very important and open to suggestions on how to do this better</li> <li>• Water test indicating very good</li> <li>• One item is water nitrates...much better than 10 years ago</li> <li>• On committees...must have agriculture representation...see what is going on</li> </ul>