

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 8, 2021 Meeting, 2pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 879 9535 8203 Passcode: 489030

Vern VandeGarde Scott Bedlington Mike Schoneveld
 Pete Vlas Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 Kasey Cykler Paula Harris Christina Schoenfelder

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:04.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of February 8 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
B0321	Ag Water Board	March, April AWB	\$12,811.50
B0321	Vern VandeGarde	per diem	\$128.00
B0321	Reichhardt & Ebe	Duffner tidegate	\$4,178.70
B0321	Nehalem Marine Mfg.	½ tidegate construction	\$43,178.66
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$60,296.86

Greg moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate
 - Legislature – considering Gov’s request and a version of the budget proviso we helped to develop that doesn’t assume we are on a clear path to an adjudication.
 - County Executive proposal – not progressing until after the Legislative session as Tribes won’t commit to it unless an adjudication path is advancing.
 - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – engaged by County, hoping they can bring some sanity to whatever direction the Legislature provides.
- b. Watershed Management Board projects
 - Drainage Based Management – outline provided – a good start with good participation.
 - Regional Water Supply Plan – data collection and analysis phase completed. Evaluating management options.
- c. Other WID projects with supply implications
 - S Lyn – PUD pipeline, Lynden MAR, Bellingham Middle Fork
 - Drayton – Deep Aquifer, Water Bank, augmentation

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Duffner Tidegate project
 - Construction contract – Dale presented the bids. Mike moved to execute a construction contract between the BWID and Stremler Gravel commensurate with the low bid of \$242,015.66, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - Cost and budget review – A review of the expenses to date and anticipated expenses indicated a shortfall of approximately \$28k. Mike and Scott will approach DD #4 and CDID #1 about contributing another \$10k apiece. Vern moved to agree to have the BWID contribute the remaining balance which would be anticipated to be under \$10k, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- R & E contract amendment – Mike moved approval of an additional \$40k to amend the current engineering contract with Reichhardt and Ebe, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - Amend contract with Flood board – Greg moved to authorize Henry to sign indicating approval of the new contract with the County to add the additional \$50k contribution, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Lynden stormwater – Scott had not had opportunity to bring Lynden PW to observe.
 - c. Double Ditch culverts – Vern noted the DOT planned 14’ culverts on each side of Double Ditch at Badger Rd. He will be meeting with them to discuss the implications of this change.
 - d. Flood Committee update – Fred noted the planning for future flood work is slowed as a result of the impasse over movement towards adjudication. The opportunity to reengage is likely in the context of the Drainage Based Management process.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – results are OK
- b. DNA project – Avian project – remains slowed although some analysis has occurred. Ryan has relocated to PA but is still working on this. Expected results within 3 months.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred reviewed the maps and data from Portage Bay. A clear decline in the numbers overall which may be attributed to taking samples at high runoff events. Further closures are possible. The likelihood of fall openings are increasingly unlikely.
- d. Canada – Fred reported that BC govt was experiencing budget cutbacks that may make our ability to connect with water quality staff more difficult.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Review of Website, project list to be updated – www.bertrandwid.com
 - Reference to legal strategy
 - Tidegates
 - Communication through WFF newsletters
 - Beaver control
 - Water banks
 - DNA project
 - DBM
 - Contributions to salmon recovery
- b. Alan reminded the board there was an appointed position to the WCD board open. It should be a landowner and needs to be filed by the end of the month.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Vern adjourned the meeting at 3:50. Next meeting is April 12.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____