

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: October 10, 2022 Meeting, 2pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87498260770?pwd=ckJrTGFPbjZQVnZ6c0R2M0RVdXcwQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 9826 0770 Passcode: 751728

<u> </u> x <u> </u> Vern VandeGarde	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Scott Bedlington	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Mike Schoneveld
<u> </u> o <u> </u> Pete Vlas	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Greg Ebe	
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> Dale Buys	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Fred Likkel
<u> </u> t <u> </u> Alan Chapman	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Bill Clarke	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Steve Banham
<u> </u> o <u> </u> Jay Chennault	<u> </u> Katie Faber	<u> </u> Angela Gelfer
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:04.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of September 12, 2022 minutes
- b. [Financial Report](#)

The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
B1022	Stremler Gravel	Fishtrap logjam	\$5,752.81
		TOTAL VOUCHER	\$5,752.81

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

II. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Mike needs to be nominated. Scott nominated Mike for another term, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. [AWB Budget request](#) – Board reviewed the request which included added legal costs and encouragement for WIDs to budget for water right acquisition. This will mean a \$100,062 budget for the BWID.
- c. 2023 Workplan & Budget
 - Resolution 2022-1 – Setting the 2023 Assessment Rate and Budget
 - Scott moved to adopt Resolution 2022-1, keep the acre assessment at \$10, and the total budget at \$147,580, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - Resolution 2022-2 – Adopting the 2023 Assessment Roll
 - Mike moved to adopt Resolution 2022-2, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - November 14th Board of Equalization will be held to begin the meeting.

DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE – *all Watershed Improvement Districts*

Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – one position in Bertrand, two in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o'clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.

2) Inspect the 2023 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in Laurel will be heard at 10am, November 14th; for Bertrand at 2pm, November 14th; for Sumas at 1pm, November 8th; for South Lynden at 3pm, November 8th; for North Lynden at 9am, November 15th; and for Drayton at 3pm, November 15th, all at the District's office or via Zoom. Contact the WID administrator for access to the meeting @ info@agwaterboard.com. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 18th to November 8th.

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts' offices located at 204 Hawley Street, Lynden.

Public Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 19, 26, and November 2

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
 - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement idea being vetted
 - Ecology floating “Solutions Showcase” – learning from the [Yakima example](#). We should submit questions and connect with the Yakima farmers involved prior to the October 27th WMB meeting.
 - Ecology budget request – Bill noted they asked the Legislature for \$2.75 million for the next biennium. This would not cover the expenses of the Attorney General or the Whatcom Superior Court. We are drafting a response that would point the Legislature towards more effective and efficient means of addressing the numerous water issues.
 - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table
 - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application denied. Will be debriefing with Ecology soon to understand why.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
 - AWB to establish – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – in process
 - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – will be sent once the Exchange is set up.
 - Follow-up with key acquisition candidates

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Flood update – design charrette @ Tuesday’s meeting. Fred noted some signs of progress as illustrated by the side channel created near the Everson bridge.
- b. FEMA update – expectation will be to accomplish most of this work in 2023. There was some confusion over the WID’s authority and responsibility. Our authority is clear but how to define our responsibility or obligation to maintain drainage is not as clear. We are obligated to provide services to the assessment paying landowners and we expect to establish temporary easements to conduct the needed flood repair work to make our obligation and expectations of landowners clear. Scott moved to adopt Resolution 2022-3 which restates our relationship with landowners and FEMA to make our relationships clear, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - Cooperation with Lynden – we seek a similar relationship between the city and the WID as the Sumas WID has with the City of Sumas. They will be doing the contracting for the work, pay the invoices, and then invoice the WID for work completed. The WID will then submit to FEMA. Steve noted a November 9 Public Works meeting to discuss this.
- c. Ditch maintenance
 - Oostrra – appreciated our cooperation and direction
 - Fishtrap logjam - \$352.81 over, mitigation expenses outstanding, \$3k from DID expected. Will contact Frank to arrange mitigation and then invoice DID for the mitigation expenses and the expenses over our \$5,400 limit.
- d. CLASS – Sept. 15th meeting – next step seems to be a hydrologic study to better illustrate our needs and preferred solutions. City of Lynden is pursuing a CERB grant application to complete that study. Would be in early 2023.
- e. WCD Update – [parcel fee proposed](#) - County Council public hearing on Oct 25th. – Alan reviewed the purpose of the proposal which is to provide a funding base for the WCD which is currently nearly solely reliant on grant funding. A letter of support from the WIDs and AWB would be appreciated. The board noted they appreciated the funding package which is based on parcels rather than acres. The net result is ag would be providing approximately \$30k of the \$590k revenue. The services provided by the WCD were also appreciated but the loss of an ag engineer to help with EQIP contracts was sorely missed.
- f. Beaver trapping – Scott reported the DID removed 9 beavers from the Schneider drainage area and the drainage has been improved.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred noted that most recent numbers were from very low flow areas. Even with that challenge the numbers have not been high.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.bertrandwid.com
- b. Legislative Tour – November – Henry explained that once we have a clear ask of the Legislature as they consider the funding of the adjudication Bill will help to bring some key legislators to Whatcom and we will show them sites to illustrate our request.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Vern adjourned the meeting at 3:46. Next meeting is November 14.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____