

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 14, 2021 Meeting, 2pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 885 7463 9896 Passcode: 056644

Vern VandeGarde Scott Bedlington Mike Schoneveld
 Pete Vlas Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Gavin Willis
 Frank Corey Dale Rutgers Atul Deshmane
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:00.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of May 3 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>
B0621	Ag Water Board	July, August AWB	\$12,811.50
B0621	Vern VandeGarde	per diem	\$128.00
B0621	Reichhardt & Ebe	Duffner tidegate	\$1,905.30
B0621	Stremler Gravel	Duffner tidegate	\$4,050.00
B0621	Exact Scientific	Avian DNA project	\$5,000.00
		TOTAL VOUCHER	\$23,894.80

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. County led Collaboration
 - Legislature provided 2 years funding @ \$125k/yr
 - County Executive meeting with AWB Water Supply Committee – June 8th - was summarized. Satpal understands the concerns with an adjudication and shares our goal of illustrating a better path to a solution by the time the 2023 Legislature considers the filing and funding of an adjudication. Tribes remain non-committal to an alternative path. A Tribal meeting with Ecology this month may help them determine their approach to County led collaboration.
 - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report due in July. Will likely be retained as a neutral party able to provide back channel communications with Tribes and Ecology.
 - Conflicting letters from [ReSources](#) and [Family Farmers](#)
 - [Executive's response](#) – challenged ReSources desire to abandon collaboration and focus only on data collection.
 - Request for infrastructure projects – ARA providing \$45 million – the board brainstormed potential projects.
 - Surface to ground conversions
 - Augmentation projects
 - BBWS deep aquifer pipeline
- b. Watershed Management Board projects
 - Drainage Based Management - [outline](#)
 - Seeking expansion of outline AND key initial projects from each pilot
 - Regional Water Supply Plan – [data collection](#)
- c. Legal Preparation – AWB Legal committee and Bill Clarke are recommending some steps to prepare for an adjudication, should one actually be filed. We will set aside

time at future AWB Board meetings for Executive Sessions as we prepare for litigation. We are planning to rotate Executive Sessions among future WID meetings as well to keep WID boards fully informed as well. Bill is suggesting that all WIDs look at obtaining a water right in the next 18 months. This would help ensure the WIDs have the standing they will need to be part of an adjudication and potential solutions arising in an adjudication or alternative agreement. Henry asked the board members to be alert to any land conversions where a water right might be purchased. Suggestions to pursue were Van Zee's and Lynden Door.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Duffner Tidegate project – Dale hosted a preconstruction meeting with Stremlers. They are working on alternatives to pumping the entire stream during the entire construction period. They tested the embankment material and found it to be satisfactory. August is assumed to be the project period.
- b. Lynden stormwater
 - Draft [Interlocal Agreement](#) – City, BWID, NLWID, DD#4, DID#1 – Pete moved to approve proceeding with these parties in developing an Interlocal Agreement to address the stormwater issues in west Lynden, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously. The consensus is that the City should lead this project as they have the most pressing concerns.
 - Willamette Partnership potential – Fred has a relationship with this group built on their involvement with Jay Gordon in the Chehalis. There may be some available federal funding to help set up this project.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results
- b. [DNA project – Avian project](#) - Avian project report has been received. It helps clarify some issues but more questions arise. There is some interest in pursuing more data to answer these questions. Fred expects to arrange a fall meeting where Exact can present the data to the sponsoring WIDs and discuss next steps. The board suggested that there was little need to identify every source. For our benefit, it is important to isolate if the source is human, wildlife, or cattle.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.bertrandwid.com
- b. Henry updated the board on changes at the Whatcom Conservation District. Frank Corey is filling the Interim Ex. Director role with George's June 1 retirement. They seem to have narrowed the search down to three candidates. Alan was reelected to the WCD board and Fred Berman was appointed to the board to replace Larry Davis.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Vern adjourned the meeting at 3:04. Next meetings are September 13, October 11.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____