

# Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

## Meeting Minutes for: November 11, 2019 Meeting, 2pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Vern VandeGarde       Scott Bedlington       Mike Schoneveld  
 Pete Vlas                       Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink                       Dale Buys                       Fred Likkel  
 Frank Corey                       Jay Chennault                       Alan Chapman  
*x = present                      o = absent with notice                      t = teleconference*

### Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Vern opened the Board of Equalization Hearing. No comments or protests were noted. Scott moved to close the hearing at 2:05, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

#### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of October 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

|                  |                 |             |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Ag Water Board   | Nov - Dec       | \$9,683.50  |
| Vern Vande Garde | per diem (1)    | \$90.00     |
| Enduris          | Insurance       | \$3,090.00  |
| Reichardt & Ebe  | Duffner project |             |
| TOTAL - Month    |                 | \$12,863.50 |

Mike moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously. Henry will check on the increased insurance costs.

#### II. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Mike is the only nominee. Congratulations!

#### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management pilot – Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton – meetings of technical committee begin this month, Tribes are both at the table in each pilot. The schedule has been drafted to complete these pilots by July. Future drainages will be considered based on the success of the pilots. The Water Supply committee of the AWB will be closely connected with Fred and Henry in this process. WID Boards will be updated each meeting and will solicited for feedback and advice.
- b. AWB Grant from Ecology - \$150k for 2 years – scope expected to be approved in November. Jay walked the board through the items in the scope of work:
  - Develop Project Lists – surface to ground and augmentation potential sites
  - Implement 2 conversions, 1 augmentation project

#### IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Duffner tidegate project – Dale noted that the plans were sent out and were looking for comments from Gary Goodall and Tom Slocum on the engineering.
  - Status of funding – Diking and Drainage Districts are willing to help address the \$80k shortage. Diking District is considering \$10-15k; DID #1 will contribute \$10k.

- Flood pilot project – Fred sees potential for using some of the \$500k Fish and Farms grant funds to help.
  - Streamflow Enhancement Grant – Henry noted that there was an opportunity to apply for funds for projects under this grant in February.
- b. Floodplains by Design – Reach 2 will be an initial focus area. Fred was optimistic about a contact within WDFW’s Estuary program who is reaching out to ag.
  - c. Buffers – Fred was less enthusiastic about reports that the Tribes and Governor Inslee were preparing to mandate 170’ buffers on all streams. We don’t have details on this proposal but need to be alert if it is introduced in the 2020 Legislature.

**V. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – some high numbers at Rathbone after the first fall flush.
- b. DNA project – Fred and Alan were at a recent meeting where this was discussed. They had a sense there was progress but the idea remains in the research and development phase. Fred will get Kent to speak to a future WID meeting.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Data is not supporting a lifting of the fall closure of the shellfish beds in Portage Bay.
- d. Ecology non-point enforcement – Fred questioned if Ecology was making any real progress on tightening their enforcement procedures on non-dairy livestock.

**VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Website - [www.bertrandwid.com](http://www.bertrandwid.com)
- b. AWB Newsletter – review draft report – a draft was reviewed for the January AWB newsletter.
- c. WFF – REAL campaign – Farmer Rally November 21

**VII. Other Items from Commissioners**

- a. WCD Long Range Plan – Alan alerted the Board to discussions at the WCD about long-range funding of its programs. George has asked if the CD could have some time at the January or February WID meetings. WCD is considering asking for a Countywide property assessment to provide stability in funding its programs. They receive a small amount of support from the State. The large majority of its services are grant and contract funded. Options for funding include both a per parcel and an acreage assessment.

**VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

December 9?

January 13 – two gone for Potato Conference that week. Mtg. moved to January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_