

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – November 13, 2023, 2 PM

Board Attending:

Vern Vande Garde
 Scott Bedlington

Mike Schoneveld
 Greg Ebe

Pete Vlas

Others Attending:

Gavin Willis
 Trevor Gearhart
 Alan Chapman

Henry Bierlink
 Dale Buys
 Bill Clarke

Fred Likkel
 Frank Corey
 Brandy Reed

Jay Chennault

Katie Faber

Rud Browne

x – present

o – absent with notice

t – teleconference

p – proxy

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:02.

1. Board of Equalization

- a. Scott moved to open the board of equalization. Mike seconded. Board of equalization was opened.
- b. No one present to contest their assessments.
- c. Scott moved to close the board of equalization. Mike seconded. Board of equalization was closed.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. October 9 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Scott moved to approve the consent agenda. Pete seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Administration

- a. With no other nominations, Vern and Pete are elected to new 3-year terms.
- b. OPMA training is required for all board members – Gavin will coordinate that training at a board meeting in January or February.

4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Nov 8 event hosted by WFF was well-attended. Gavin will send out a link to the slides from the presentations.
- b. Update from Henry – the planning unit is looking at integrating water availability with land use zoning. There is general agreement from participants on the PU that you can't zone land for agriculture without ensuring that water is available. The new land use plan has to be completed by mid-2024.
- c. WMB partners are looking at a combined application for the Streamflow Restoration Grant from ECY. The tribes are bringing projects for wetland restoration in the South Fork, and WB is bringing surface-to-groundwater conversions in the lower Nooksack. The County would administer the grant.

- d. Local Government Caucus – AWB staff are still pushing to invite the federal settlement team to present to that group.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Gavin provided an update on FEMA projects.
 - i. Gavin is moving forward on getting things in order for the Parklyn Drainpipe project. There is some more clarity now on the final 5% match from HUD.
 - ii. Discussion followed about the FEMA projects – are the projects all or nothing, or can we do smaller sections in some of them? Specifically interested with regards to the Fishtrap Levee.
- b. Fred provided an update on flooding issues. The county is under pressure to begin projects now that they have made significant progress on their modeling.
- c. Fred provided an update on CLASS. Engineers working on the modeling are requesting additional funding.
 - i. The datasets that are available for precipitation are not as comprehensive as they expected, and don't cover the entirety of the Bertrand Basin.
 - ii. Early modeling returns suggest that opening up the culverts on Mouw Ditch will decrease peak flows at Rathbone Rd due to hydrograph shifting
- d. Ditch mowing seems to have been well done this year.

6. Water Quality

- a. A water quality update was provided by email. Numbers are looking good.
 - i. Portage Bay numbers are at the lowest that they have been in 20 years; cautiously optimistic that shellfish beds could be opened up even more.

7. Education / Communications

- a. Website – bertrandwid.com
 - i. Website upgrade is tabled for now – the WID is exempt from OPMA website requirements due to having less than 10 staff members.

8. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None.

9. Next Meetings

- a. The next meeting is January 8th, unless there is a need for a meeting on December 11th to address FEMA project items.

Vern adjourned the meeting at 3:33 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____