

# Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 13, 2022 Meeting, 2pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81399228523?pwd=bCtYcDhFanpQc0dZeGFBUjNGYTJwdz09>

Meeting ID: 813 9922 8523 Passcode: 354705

Vern VandeGarde       Scott Bedlington       Mike Schoneveld  
 Pete Vlas                       Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink                       Dale Buys                       Fred Likkel  
 Dakota Stranik                       Nicole Fink                       David Haggith  
 Jay Chennault                       Katie Faber                       Cynthia May  
*x = present                      o = absent with notice                      t = teleconference*

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:05.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 11, 2022 minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
B0622	AWB	May, June AWB	\$11,308.44
B0622	AESI	Supply consulting	\$5,476.50
B0622	Vern Vande Garde	per diem (4)	\$512.00
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$17,296.94</b>

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
  - Somach Law – AWB and Family Farmers contracts in place.
  - Meeting with Ecology May 25<sup>th</sup> – decent tone but very different views on next steps. Ecology is committed to file for the adjudication in 2023.
- b. Solutions Table and or option 2
  - Lummi mixed participation until after the adjudication is filed and also used veto power to keep Watershed Management Board from proceeding without them
  - Meeting with County May 25<sup>th</sup> – stressing need to move ahead with either Solutions Table without the Tribes or energize the Watershed Management Board process.
  - Project List
    - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted
- c. County Comprehensive Plan resolutions – a few Council members are proposing a resolution to make the Climate Action plan better integrated with the upcoming Comp Plan update. The Planning Unit is proposing a similar, but simplified, resolution to make water plans consistent with the Land Use plans.
- d. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - Determine who and how to contact
  - Menu of options for landowners – use Bertrand transfer project as a template for others – Jay outlined the steps taken and next steps leading to providing options for water right holders who may not be inclined to defend their rights in an adjudication. Priority one is to have farmers use and defend their full rights.
    - #2 is to transfer all or some into the Water Trust to protect from relinquishment, the WID work with the landowner to conduct an “extent and validity” test to map where the right might be transferred. Seasonal transfers may be facilitated by the WID. The WID would need a contractual relationship with the water right holder to incur these costs.

- #3 is for the AWB to host a water right exchange assisting farmer to farmer transfers. We'd need to limit this to only irrigators to avoid facilitating transfers to uses outside of ag.
- #4 for the WID to lease or purchase the right and move it into a water bank. The Water Bank will likely be needed to pick up rights that have limited transfer potential as well as the means to distribute new water made available through pipelines, etc.

How to contact the several water right holders on our list of rights we are not sure will be defended remains uncertain. Our goal will be to have a clear Menu of Options by this fall and develop an approach to make connection with these right holders.

- e. Lynden area transfers – Jay – unable to get response from Lisa K. Will contact Mr. Borgen directly.
- f. Drainage Based Management pilot – initial Bertrand meeting in May – a second meeting this Thursday. The intent is to generate projects with full approval of the participants to present to the Watershed Management Board (or Solutions Table).

### **III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. Flood response – the FEMA application Damage Inventory was submitted for Bertrand and Sumas. The FEMA teams are evaluating the areas we submitted. The Board felt we had not addressed all the damages caused by the flood. Henry will connect with Ross and team to add more areas. A goal to include pumps as a means of avoiding future damages should be pursued.
- b. FLIP meeting - April 25-26– Fred was optimistic with the process that seems to be advancing workable solutions.
- c. Ditch maintenance – Jackman and west Double Ditch – Double Ditch may be included in Lynden's FEMA application.
- d. West Lynden stormwater – now CLASS (City of Lynden Agriculture Stormwater Solutions) – a two pager describing the project was reviewed.
- e. WCD Update – Dakota introduced Cynthia May who was hired by WCD to replace Meg Harris. She gave her background and interest in this position and promised to be a resource on water quality to all the WIDs.
- f. Beaver trapping – still nothing due to wet conditions.

### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – generally good with a few hot spots about a month or so ago.
- b. DNA testing – David submitted 12 samples and is waiting for a full report. Initial indications point to a high % of swan.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – no news.

### **V. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.bertrandwid.com](http://www.bertrandwid.com)
- b. WFF Educational Event – May 25<sup>th</sup> – good reports and better crowds than expected. The idea of a Legislative Tour similar to the one we organized for our legal team on the 24<sup>th</sup> should be explored.

### **VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Vern adjourned the meeting at 3:31. Next meeting is ~~July 11, Aug 8~~, Sept 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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