

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: Sept. 12, 2022 Meeting, 2 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87549981448?pwd=dWphOTFhUnFOdnEwS3FRVUtSR2JRUT09>

Meeting ID: 875 4998 1448 Passcode: 045446

<u> </u> x <u> </u> Vern VandeGarde	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Scott Bedlington	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Mike Schoneveld
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Pete Vlas	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Greg Ebe	
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Dale Buys	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Fred Likkel
<u> </u> Frank Corey	<u> </u> Bill Clarke	<u> </u> David Haggith
<u> </u> t <u> </u> Jay Chennault	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Katie Faber	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Alan Chapman

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 June 13, 2022 minutes
- b. [Financial Report](#)

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
B0922	AWB	July - Sept. AWB	\$16,962.66
B0922	AESI	Supply consulting	\$1,063.75
B0922	Enduris	insurance	\$4,238.00
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$22,264.41

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
 - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement concept being circulated among the local partners. Some encouraging interest.
 - Ecology floating “Solutions Showcase” – learning from the [Yakima example](#) – they expect to have Yakima representatives at the October 27 Watershed Management Board meeting. We should be in touch with the ag representatives to be sure they understand the context of how an adjudication would affect Whatcom farmers.
 - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table
 1. Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted with an expectation we will here if it is approved in early October.
 2. Review of the groundwater model is underway with AESI doing much of the work. They expect data from surface to groundwater transfers to contribute to this data.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
 - Establish a Water Bank – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – AWB will be discussing submitting an application to create the Exchange next week.
 - Exchange would:
 1. Identify rights with potential of transfer or sale.
 2. Provide initiate screen of the right for volume and transfer area. It is estimated transfers normally cost \$15-20k overall. The Exchange would cover the initial review but the bulk of the costs would be covered by the parties making the transaction.
 3. Publicize opportunity to purchase or transfer rights
 - Mailing to all WID members – it is anticipated that each WID would send information to its members regarding how to make deposits and withdrawals from the Exchange/Bank. This would be followed up by strategic contacts with the list of water right holders that we identified as likely to not be filing in the adjudication.

- c. Lynden area transfers – Jay is continuing work on the transfers in the west Lynden area. This may result in the template for the Exchange.
- d. Drainage Based Management – [final report](#) – the Bertrand report is a compilation of potential projects but not as complete as the one from the South Fork. Work on DBM is suspended for at least several months until more clarity on where the results of these reports are discussed and implemented.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Flood update – Fred reported a side channel near Everson would be constructed this fall providing some increased capacity for the river. An updated design charrette is scheduled for October 11th. Fred noted that the County Flood Fund has fallen below the \$5 million base amount which will require backfilling the fund. This will require cutting current expenses/programs or a flood tax increase.
- b. FEMA projects
 - i. Cooperation with Lynden – SEPA checklist, procurement policies may be handled by the city as they have FEMA projects as well.
 - ii. [Project cost near \\$400k](#) – 5% = Pete moved to authorize up to \$20,000 to apply to these projects, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - iii. Seeking funding assurances from other sources including the County Flood Fund, a Dept. of Commerce grant, and other potential sources.
- b. [CLASS](#) – west Lynden stormwater – [Sept. 15th landowner meeting](#) – board is encouraged to attend.
- c. Ditch maintenance – Jackman ditch, Double Ditch are on the County’s mowing list and have spray permits to cover fall applications.
 - i. Kent Oostra concerns – Kent sent a map of the drainage in his area and a request for assistance. Mike moved to approve his use of the Bertrand HPA permit if it is needed, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously. Once a project is designed we would look at any more assistance we could provide.
 - ii. Fishtrap bridge removal – Mike brought a request for removing the debris of a collapsed bridge over Fishtrap just west of Guide Meridian. Stremler Gravel provided an estimate of \$8,375 which includes \$2,500 for mitigation. Scott moved to approve up to \$5,400 from the BWID for this project with Diking District #4 providing \$3,000, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- d. WCD Update – Alan reminded the board that the CD’s proposed parcel assessments would be on the County Council agenda this fall. A countywide parcel fee of up to \$5 is being proposed.
- e. Beaver trapping – Scott asked if there were CREP contracts in the portion of Schneider ditch east of Enterprise, south of Willeys Lake Road (*research indicates there are no CREP contracts*). There are increasing complaints from the properties upstream about the lack of drainage.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred noted monitoring data were in fine shape.
- b. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred reported that DOH has also closed the beds in September under highly questionable support data.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.bertrandwid.com
- b. Legislative Tour – Bill has suggested a targeted tour for key water policy legislators in early October. This would reinforce a clear legislative request being formulated by our legal team.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Vern adjourned the meeting at 3:43. Next meetings are October 10, November 14.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____