

# Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: January 9, 2023 Meeting, 2 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85246102081?pwd=WTBqVE5QSUhTWXBsQmY3d1lMZDJvQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 4610 2081 Passcode: 001646

Vern VandeGarde       Scott Bedlington       Mike Schoneveld  
 Pete Vlas                       Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink                      \_\_\_\_\_ Dale Buys                       Fred Likkel  
\_\_\_\_\_ Frank Corey                      \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Clarke                      \_\_\_\_\_ David Haggith  
 Jay Chennault                       Gavin Willis                       Trevor Gearhart  
*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 November 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

B0123	AWB	Jan - Feb	\$16,676.94
B0123	AWB	reimbursement for AESI	\$518.75
B0123	Widener & Assoc.	FEMA contract	\$871.90
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$18,067.59</b>

Scott moved approval of the Consent Agenda after reviewing the minutes and financial report, Pete seconded, motion passed unanimously.

### II. Administrative

- a. Oath of Office – Mike was sworn in.
- b. Election of Officers: President, Secretary, AWB Representative – Scott moved to keep Vern as President, Greg as AWB representative, and Scott as Vice-Chair/Secretary, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- c. Loan request from Sumas WID – the letter of request from Sumas WID was discussed. There was a desire to help the Sumas WID where we could but hesitation about committing funds when we know there are several projects under consideration in the Bertrand this year. The request was tabled until the February meeting with the hope more information would be available.

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
  - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement as one option.
  - Ecology adjudication budget request may be packaged with guidelines for the adjudication and support for alternative settlement processes.
  - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – forming an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted.
- b. AESI update – Lynden area projects – Jay reported the forms to transfer the Lynden Door right into the Trust program were at Lesa Starkenburg’s office. Henry will call to remind her of the importance of getting this completed. Jay also noted that AESI and their team were improving the groundwater model and engaged in the new surface to groundwater interaction study the County has commissioned.
- c. Seasonal transfers – Ecology wanted to remind farmers that seasonal transfer requests must be at Ecology 60 days prior to expected irrigation.
- d. Water Right acquisition candidates

- AWB establishing – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – recent mtg with Ecology indicates we can do some our water right protection strategy without creating a formal bank. But we will still be pursuing it as an option if needed.
- Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – likely this summer after we see the status of the adjudication and have the parameters of the Exchange established.
- Follow-up with key acquisition candidates as were identified by the WID Board last spring.

#### **IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. FEMA update – no report from Ross – there are questions from FEMA about repair of the Fishtrap Creek dike. \$40k has been approved for an engineering study but the nature of that dike will be hard to engineer.
- b. Ditch maintenance - should have our priority cleaning areas to the County by March.
- c. CLASS update – still seeking funding for the Hydraulics and Habitat Study. Lynden may have some CERB funds and the FLIP process may be able to help with design.
- d. Buffer requirements – Fred reported that the pressure for large buffers is still very much present in the Legislature. It looks like mandatory buffers may be avoided for a few years but they will be back if the opportunity to implement buffers voluntarily does not make much progress. WCD is offering to lead each WID in a worksession to develop a strategy to match all the funding coming for buffers with the high priority areas where we can improve buffers and document these improvements. They presenting to 3 WIDs this month and hope to cover the other three in upcoming months. Bertrand will host this in February.

#### **V. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – Trevor reported the numbers were quite good over the last months.
- b. DNA testing – no update
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred noted that Erika has moved up in the administration and will not be as available for the PIC program as in the past. Ingrid is replacing her. The WSDA Dairy inspection program has had several resignations resulting in decreasing inspections.

#### **VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.bertrandwid.com](http://www.bertrandwid.com)

#### **VII. Other Items from Commissioners**

- a. Henry called attention to staff changes at the Ag Water Board. Gavin will be coming onto the AWB staff and beginning to take over administration of the WIDs and AWB board. Henry will continue in the water supply area for awhile but moving towards retirement.

#### **VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Vern adjourned the meeting at 3:29. Next meeting is February 13.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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