

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Meeting Minutes for: January 7, 2020 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
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 11 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Vern Vande Garde | per diem (1) | \$90.00 |
| Reichhardt & Ebe | Duffner project | \$1,074.00 |
| TOTAL - Month | | \$1,164.00 |

Mike moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously. It was noted that payment of the latest R & E Invoice would put the Duffner tidegate project over the planned \$20,000 budget. The Board was willing to cover this overage as the design portion of the contract was nearly completed.

II. Administrative

- a. Officer election – need a President and VP/Secretary - Mike moved to elect Vern as President and Pete as VP/Sect., Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Oath of office – Mike took the Oath at the start of a new 3-year term.
- c. Public Records designee – required by RCW 42.56 - Mike moved to appoint Henry Bierlink as the Public Records designee, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Nooksack Rule – it was noted that a Public Hearing on the new rule would be held January 8th at 3pm at LMS. Bill drafted written testimony to be presented by AWB.
- b. Drainage Based Management pilot – Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton
 - First meeting 12/16 – data gathering primarily, some disappointment in the commitment of the Tribes to anything but the South Fork.
 - Summary and Next Steps due in mid-January
 - South Fork involvement – Fred noted that the interest of the Tribes in the South Fork could provide leverage for work in other portions of the basin. A meeting with the South Fork farmers is still being planned.
- c. AWB Grant from Ecology - \$150k for 2 years, contract to be signed by Friday. R & E will provide most of the work in cooperation with AESI.
 - 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 has the permits nearly ready for review.
 - a. Status of funding – Diking and Drainage Districts are contributing. Fred figures there is still as \$50k gap.
 - b. Flood pilot project – there is a good chance that a portion of the \$500k budget for the Fish, Farms, and Floods project would be applied to the remaining balance to complete the project. Mike is willing to include some habitat restoration along Duffner to make the project attractive to this program.
- b. FLIP project tour – Fred announced a February 3-4 tour of potential flood projects

- c. Meeting with Cramer Scientific – Fred is planning a meeting with the river related WIDs where the habitat survey prepared by Cramer Scientific could be better understood and discussed. He is hoping for late January.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – it appears some of the late fall high numbers may be related to the construction of the Badger Road bridge. Fred noted that Portage Bay was being sampled today.
- b. DNA project – Fred hopes to get Kent from Exact to strategize with the WIDs to determine how this might be advanced.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- b. AWB Newsletter
- c. WCD request to meet with WIDs in February – board is open to discussing but likely opposed to an acre based assessment.
- d. Air Quality – Fred noted the dilemma surrounding the Tri-County dead stock permits. He needs to shut down by the end of January if conditions are not met. Dairy needs this service but the location has been problematic for neighbors including farmers.
- e. Special Purpose District proposed legislation – abuse of tax payer funds in a King County Drainage District is causing proposed legislation that would drastically change the structure of special purpose districts like the WIDs. Bill is monitoring. We will need to be involved in helping him make the case for defeating changes that diminish our effectiveness.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

February 10

March 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____