

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 8, 2018 Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vern VandeGarde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Bedlington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Schoneveld
<input type="checkbox"/> Pete Vlas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel
<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Bucknell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Lindsay	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 13 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>11/1/2017</u>	<u>Last Month</u>	<u>12/1/2017</u>	<u>ANNUAL TOTAL</u>
2017 Assessments Received		\$15,200.79		\$84,894.70
Fund Balance	\$43,841.56		\$59,042.35	
Beginning Year Balance			\$16,528.49	
Outstanding bills:				\$29,912.61
Ag Water Board	<i>Jan AWB Admin</i>		\$4,874.32	
Ag Water Board	<i>Augmentation Grant</i>		\$4,320.00	
Vern Vande Garde	<i>per diem (2)</i>		\$180.00	
Maberry Packing	<i>Augmentation Grant</i>		\$2,940.00	
Pete Smit	<i>beaver trapping</i>		\$600.00	
On the Wire	<i>computer, lawsuit</i>		\$504.59	
Chmelik, Sitkin, Davis	<i>lawsuit</i>		\$3,535.06	
Reichhardt & Ebe	<i>Augmentation Grant</i>		\$7,937.67	
Dept of Ecology	<i>W R processing - grant</i>		\$5,020.97	
End of Month Balance				\$29,129.74
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	58,531	58,530.96		0.04
Projects	23,636	2,840.00	\$5,000.00	15,796.00
Insurance/Adm	4,191	23,210.64		-19,019.64
	86,358	84,581.60	\$5,000.00	-3,223.60
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
2015 Capital Grant	\$184,889.93	\$31,449.15	\$146,312.38	\$7,128.40

Scott moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- a. Election of Chair for 2018 – Scott moved to keep Vern as the Chair, Greg seconded, carried unanimously.
- b. Lawsuit report - >35,000 files provided – no further response.
- c. Review Priority Issue and Activity lists – Develop 2018 Action priorities
 1. Contact Ecology and seek approval for a permanent water right permit for the Augmentation project.
 2. Complete the remaining surface to ground water transfers
 3. Pursue 5-year programmatic drainage permit
 - 4.

III. Water Supply

- a. Hirst/Foster fix bills – Bertrand is proposed as a pilot project in the “Foster Fix” bill.
- b. Review and discuss “Next Steps” draft from AWB Board – The board was presented with some background on how the Watershed Management Board has developed and what opportunity there is to help them focus on some tangible tasks in the near future. The AWB’s proposal to engage in developing agreements through drainage based management plans is one of the major ideas being considered. Other tasks include water quantity and quality monitoring, further development of the surface and groundwater models and budgets, and a basin-wide Water Supply Plan.

AWB has tentatively approved the “Next Steps” proposal but needs to vet it with each WID before taking it to a broader audience. The WIDs are asked to agree with continuing work on developing the proposal and for ideas to make it better. BWID discussion raised numerous questions with much of the discussion about how the Tribal fish concerns might be addressed so that the Tribes would see drainage based management as a significant step in resorting fish runs. A balance sheet of NEEDS and CONTRIBUTIONS was suggested. Some ideas were:

NEEDS:

Water supply
Reasonable water quality standards
Drainage
Flood protection

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Habitat
Political support
Financial support

The Board agreed to keep the dialogue going with the AWB which intends to hold several Strategy Development Sessions between their quarterly board meetings. All WID commissioners are encouraged to participate. The next session is scheduled for 1pm on January 30th.

- c. Support from State via \$450k budget request – The AWB, PUD, and Whatcom County request for State assistance in implementing the WRIA #1 Management Plan is likely to be funded from an allocation to Ecology coming out of the Hirst/Foster fix bills being debated. This would provide for much of the expense of implementing the drainage based management concept.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – look good
- b. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – there are three units in service (*River at PUD and Lynden intake, and Fishtrap at LCHS*) and three on the way. The next two will be installed on Double Ditch at the border and Bertrand at Rathbone. The third may be installed as a semi portable unit on a trailer with its own water and power source as well as security. Turbidity has been a complicating factor in providing reliable readings.
- c. South Lynden source tracking project – Fred noted the data analysis would be done in January. Results are expected to be reported at the South Lynden WID’s February meeting.

V. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Fish/Flood meeting – Fred summarized the discussion between farmers and Ned Currance (Nooksack) and Alan Chapman (Lummi). All agreed it was a valuable exchange of information. Fish runs are down 25% from the time when they were listed. Concerns are placed more upstream and in the ocean than in the lower watershed. But we can do something and the farmers agree we need to do our part.
- b. Stormwater in Duffner – a letter to the City should come from DID #1. Commissioners are Mike, James Bouma, and Fred Vander Veen.
- c. 5-year programmatic permit – Frank has developed these for the North and South Lynden and Sumas WIDs. He can use those templates to do one for the BWID as well.

His cost is estimated at \$1500 and permit fees in the \$2,000 range. The Board felt this was a reasonable goal to accomplish in 2018.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- b. Educational Forums – The WCD reminded the board of two upcoming educational events – the Manure Management Training on January 10th and the Small Farm Expo on February 24th.

VII. Ag Water Board

- a. Winter newsletter – A newsletter is planned in February – the Bertrand WID report should include the augmentation and conversion projects.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

February 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

Draft of WID Report

The Bertrand WID was pleased to complete the stream augmentation project in cooperation with local landowners and Ecology. We clearly demonstrated our ability to add 1 cubic foot/second (cfs) to the creek. We know we can do more if an agreement to meet both farmers and habitat needs develops. We also supported several moves from surface to ground water diversions resulting in flow improvements of nearly 5 cfs. We are working in the Legislature to restore legal ability to continue this work. We updated our existing Comprehensive Plan that was completed in 2004 to include the areas we annexed in 2014. A 5-year programmatic drainage permit is on our 2018 workplan. Our plan and reports on these recent projects are available on our website @ www.bertrandwid.com.