

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: September 11, 2017 Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Vern VandeGarde Scott Bedlington Mike Schoneveld
 Pete Vlas Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 Heather McKay Chuck Lindsay Kasey Cykler
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of June 12 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

| | <u>Amount</u> | <u>This Month</u> | <u>Expended</u> | <u>Available</u> |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 2015 Capital Grant | \$184,889.93 | | \$146,312.38 | \$38,577.55 |
| 2017 Assessments Received | | \$50,132.58 | | |
| Fund Balance 6/1/2017 | | \$66,911.22 | | |
| Fund Balance 8/1/2017 | | \$70,741.64 | | |
| Accounts Payable | | | | |
| Invoices Submitted for reimbursement | | | | |
| TOTAL Available | | | | \$70,741.64 |
| Outstanding bills: | | | | \$30,274.51 |
| Ag Water Board <i>July, Aug AWB Admin</i> | | | \$9,755.16 | |
| Ag Water Board <i>grant project</i> | | | \$2,880.00 | |
| Vern Vande Garde <i>per diems (2)</i> | | | \$180.00 | |
| Enduris <i>insurance premium</i> | | | \$2,832.00 | |
| FHB Consulting <i>BWID Comp Plan</i> | | | \$2,040.00 | |
| Dept of Ecology <i>W R processing - grant</i> | | | \$3,960.93 | |
| Reichhardt & Ebe <i>Augmentation Grant</i> | | | \$8,626.42 | |
| End of Month Balance | | | | \$40,467.13 |
| | <u>2017 Budget</u> | <u>Expended</u> | <u>Balance</u> | |
| AWB | 58,531 | 39,020.64 | 19,510.36 | |
| Projects | 23,636 | 2,240.00 <i>(\$5,000 for DNA)</i> | 21,396.00 | |
| Insurance/Adm | 4,191 | 3,884.36 | 306.64 | |
| | 86,358 | 45,145.00 | 41,213.00 | |

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

II. Administrative

- A. Public Records Request lawsuit – November 2 settlement meeting – Vern and Henry updated the Board on the lawsuit filed against the Bertrand WID. There is a belief that we are holding documents surrounding the water negotiations that should have been released during last summer’s Public Records request. Henry reported there were a few draft ideas that were circulated in the confidential negotiations that didn’t result in any agreements. He should have listed them as non-disclosable but he didn’t as they did not result in any decisions or actions.

- B. Comprehensive Plan preparation – Heather led the Board in a review of Tables 1 and 2 in the draft plan. She will incorporate the edits into the next edition which we will target to be accepted as the draft plan in October. Once the draft is approved it will be placed on the BWID website subject to ongoing edits by the Board. An idea that the Sumas WID has adopted is a 5-10 minute review of a specific section of the Plan at each meeting.

C. Review Priority Issue and Activity lists

| Priorities | 2017 Action Priorities | Notes/Actions |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 1. Water rights | Water augmentation project finished | |
| | Surface to groundwater transfers...support legislation and legal effort | |
| 2. Water Quality | Continue water quality testing to bring quality back | |
| 3. Drainage | | Consider working with Frank to prepare the 5 – year permit. |
| 4. Flood Management | | |

D. 2018 Workplan & Budget

- 1) Budget planning for 2018 – assessment rates – AWB is likely to present a budget request very similar to 2017. The WID needs to assess its project needs and determine if a change in WID assessment rate is needed. A decision needs to be made at the October Board meeting. The BWID’s project budget is \$23,636. Anticipated expenses in 2018 include \$2,500 for a Programmatic drainage permit, \$5,000 for support of the DNA project in S Lynden, and \$1,000 in case of an election costs. That leaves \$15,136 for other projects.
- 2) Nominations – Vern and Peter – Scott moved to nominate Vern and Peter for another three-year term, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Legal Notice - must be published in Lynden Tribune October 18, 25, November 1

DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE – all Watershed Improvement Districts

Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – two positions in Bertrand, two in Drayton, two in Laurel, one in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o’clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.

2) Inspect the 2018 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in the Bertrand will be heard at 2pm, November 13th, for Sumas at 1pm, November 14th, for South Lynden at 3pm, November 14th, for Laurel at 10am, November 13th, for North Lynden at 10am, November 21st, and for Drayton at 3pm, November 21st, all at the District’s office. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 18th to November 11th.

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts’ offices located at 1796 Front Street, Lynden.

III. Water Supply

A. Augmentation Project

- A September 14th start up is planned.

- Monitoring of the flows and changes in water chemistry is planned to document the effect of the project.
 - Andgar has manufactured two dissipation devices, Scott Bedlington is lending the hose on the second site.
- B. Olympia Report – Hirst and funding for water projects – Olympia is stalemated. There is potential for a \$450k grant to the County to facilitate water discussions and help develop more management tools in the yet to be passed Capital Budget.
- C. Water Supply Work Group report – Henry noted that the Water Working Group was overseeing the following projects:
- i. Drought Contingency planning
 - ii. Infrastructure evaluation
 - iii. Renewed push for negotiations leading to binding agreements

IV. Water Quality

- A. Monitoring Results – Fred reported that the summer had low counts. He expressed optimism that we could see progress on opening more of Portage Bay for shellfish harvesting based on the improving record.
- B. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – calibration on the River stations has been a work in progress. The Fishtrap station at LCS has been operating well. It is likely a site will be installed near the Rathbone gage.
- a. South Lynden source tracking project – adjustments on the experimental design have taken place due to the lack of rain this summer. It will be a Sept.- November project. \$125k is in the State budget for this kind of work. How and where it gets distributed is still being worked out.
- C. WFF/DPC Nitrate Study – Fred reported that a study has been concluded indicating the long-term improvements in County nitrate levels.

V. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Ditch maintenance – Fred reported the County has had their budget cut back for active ditch mowing. Spraying may be the best alternative in some locations.
- B. 5-year programmatic permit – there is interest to continue to pursue this. Likely using Frank at the WCD.
- C. Stormwater in Duffner – concern over the lack of maintenance of the Lynden stormwater ponds was expressed. This is having a significant impact on the ability of the DID to provide adequate drainage and the City is not financially contributing to the DID’s management. Henry will check with Bill Clarke about the obligation the City may have to assist.

VI. Education/Communications

- A. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- B. Water Symposiums – Sept 20-21, Nov. 1. – Henry encouraged WID members to attend these educational opportunities. The September 20th program is of particular interest as both Rich Appel and Brad Rader will be presenting for agriculture. The November 1st program will focus exclusively on water supply issues.
- C. WCD Speaker Series – The WCD provided a list of topics. The AWB is helping to sponsor these talks.
- D. WFF Farmer Rally – Fred provided information on a November 2nd Farmer Rally

VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Winter newsletter – we will go to a summer/winter newsletter as WFF is planning a spring/fall newsletter
- B. Water Rights letter and future workshop – the potential of increased water right enforcement pointed towards the need to better educate farmers on their legal options.

A letter was emailed to all farmers in July. A workshop in late winter remains a possibility but with few enforcement actions this summer it may not be an urgent need. Kasey offered to help on this if needed.

- C. CAO and impervious surface update – Farm Bureau has led this effort. Consensus is that both issues are being resolved in an acceptable manner.
- D. County water program funding update – Henry noted that the County was leaning towards establishing a storm water utility district in the Lake Whatcom area which would take some financial pressure off the Flood Fund.
- E. Portage Bay Partnership update – Fred expressed hope that the difficulties in making progress were only hurdles in the long process of building relationships that provide both parties and opportunity to communicate.

VIII. Other Items from Commissioners

- A. Mike made note of the round of DID meeting schedules in the next few weeks.

IX. Adjournment/Next Meetings

October 9
November 13

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____