

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: November 12, 2018 Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Vern VandeGarde Scott Bedlington Mike Schoneveld
 Pete Vlas Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 Frank Corey Alan Chapman David Haggith
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Vern opened the Board of Equalization Hearing. With no comments Mike moved to close the hearing, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of October 8 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

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

II. Administration

- a. No nominations for board membership other than the nomination of Greg and Scott by the board were received. Both Greg and Scott are elected to another three year term.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. AWB/Tribal meetings – Nooksack meeting was held in September. Lummi meeting is still pending.
- b. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - Debate over fees (\$500), max amount (3000 gpd), meters – PU provisionally approved no change in the fees or amount and elected to have voluntary metering leading to needed data collection on rural water use.
 - Deadline for PU approval of the final plan is December 12
- c. Ecology grant application – grant submitted 10/31, notice in late December
 - Funding for surface to ground transfers and augmentation projects
 - Credit for AG when implementing stream projects
 - Water Bank/Exchange
 - Drainage Based Mgt – begin in January – likely Drayton and Bertrand
 - Impact on AWB budget, workplan – We will be busy implementing projects rather than just talking about them if the grant is approved.
- d. Flood Management grant application – ranked 1st in State, submitted by WC Flood
 - Funding for a yet to be determined ag/flooding/fish project
 - AWB staff time spent on the FLIP process in 2019-2021
 - Impact on AWB budget, workplan – funds would not be available until July.
- e. Alan Chapman – introduced as the newly elected supervisor at the Whatcom Conservation District. Interested in collaborative projects. Also on the Fishers Caucus in the Planning Unit and has been active in the Puget Sound Partnership. Noted another election for a WCD Supervisor seat will be held in early 2019.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Duffner tidegate project – Dale reported on an infield meeting which brought all the needed parties together to proceed with this plan. Mike reported that surveying was being done.
- b. Ditch maintenance – Henry wondered if the board still wanted Frank to work on the 5 – year permit. The cost is approximately \$4-5k. Scott wondered if the Diking District #4 already had this permit. Fred will check. If the permit would help with banking mitigation projects the board wants to be sure we have this in place. The tidegate project should counts for mitigation for ditch cleaning projects elsewhere in the WID.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results - October/November was a difficult period for fecal counts throughout the basin. A very high count was gathered at the Bay-Lyn road crossing of Duffner Ditch. Speculation on what might be happening here. Alerting the City of Lynden was advised.
- b. Cross border counts – high counts at the border are still common. Meg and Erika will be invited to the January meeting to discuss how this is being addressed. The letter to Executive Louws that was previously discussed was again encouraged.
- c. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – Just getting started.
- d. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred reported a high count was reported in Portage Bay which will hinder the ability to fully open the shellfish beds for some time. There was no clear suspect for the high count.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- b. AWB Newsletter – ready for printing and distribution.
- c. WFF – REAL campaign – Farmer Rally November 8 – a success, many ag business and ag service individuals attending.

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Strategic Planning – some time should be devoted to taking a broad look at our direction and setting some goals for 2019. The Board suggested that the January meeting should make time for this discussion. The December meeting will likely be cancelled unless an item of urgency arises.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

January 14

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____