

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: September 13, 2021 Meeting, 2pm

AWB Conference Room and Videoconference

Zoom Meeting ID: 880 4587 0909 Passcode: 556890

 x Vern VandeGarde x Scott Bedlington x Mike Schoneveld
 x Pete Vlas x Greg Ebe

 x Henry Bierlink x Dale Buys x Fred Likkel
 Frank Corey t Bill Clarke David Haggith
 x Jay Chennault t Katie Faber t Angela Gelfer
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:04.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of June 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
B0921	Ag Water Board	September, October AWB	\$12,811.50
B0921	Vern VandeGarde	per diem	\$128.00
B0921	Reichhardt & Ebe	Duffner tidegate	\$14,416.94
B0921	Freese Precast	Duffner tidegate	\$90,096.00
B0921	Enduris	self insurance	\$3,812.00
B0921	Newhalem Marine	Duffner tidegate	\$43,178.86
B0921	Stremmler gravel	Duffner tidegate	\$193,925.80
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$358,369.10

A review of the Duffner accounting spreadsheet was conducted. It appears there will be a remaining balance after all invoices are paid. Scott moved to approve the Consent Agenda and to distribute the remaining funds in the Duffner project proportionally (based on amount contributed) between the BWID, the Drainage District, and the Diking District, Peter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. AWB Water Supply issues - Bill
 - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report indicates parties are not “ripe”, suggests a “solutions table”
 - Adjudication – seems hard to stop, exploring ways to mitigate the damage
 - Legal preparation
 1. Executive sessions for WID Boards – pending litigation – at Oct mtg.
 2. Working with private attorneys to find the most effective structure to help all farmers with water right concerns.
 3. Standing in adjudication – have WIDs seek interest in a water right
- b. AESI contract – Jay
 - Water right list – AESI has prepared a list of water rights in the Bertrand WID and is working on merging this list with the current parcel layer so that the Board will be able to see the current owner of the water right. Goal is to ensure that all rights are in use and fully prepared for adjudication. We will examine the rights where use is not as clear or use is minimal as potential candidates for acquisition,

transfers, leases, etc. Reconciling the Ecology database and County Parcel layer is a current challenge AESI is working through.

- Request for infrastructure projects – \$20m targeted to infrastructure in Whatcom, other federal funds are flowing through grant programs like those under the Bureau of Reclamation. AESI prepared a spreadsheet describing the ideas for projects that have been considered in the past 30 years. The board was asked to review them and add new ideas that might be advanced. A rough budget was applied for each project.
- c. AWB Budgeting – the initial 2022 AWB budget will be drafted next week for the WIDs to consider in October. Investing into the legal work needed to protect all ag water rights is needed but not yet fully understood. Getting an idea of what may be an acceptable range for the AWB legal work was discussed.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Duffner Tidegate – a [media timeline](#) was shown of the completed project. Dale reported that the project was completed under budget.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – looking good over the summer
- b. DNA project – Avian project – Kent is presenting the results at the South Lynden WID Tuesday. Fred reported that there is a sense that we are making progress on isolating sources.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – best news is that data is suggesting a rainfall based closure rather than a calendar closure and that DOH is beginning to consider this.

V. Education/Communications

- a. www.bertrandwid.com

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Meeting was adjourned at 3:24. Next meeting is October 11.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____