

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 13, 2017 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pete Vlas	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry De Haan
<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Bucknell	<input type="checkbox"/> Chuck Lindsay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather McKay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of January 9 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
2015 Capital Grant	\$183,613.73		\$124,270.35	\$59,343.38
2017 Assessments Received		\$0.00		
Fund Balance 1/1/2017		\$44,629.59		
Fund Balance 2/1/2017		\$74,365.70		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$74,365.70
Outstanding bills:				\$6,058.43
Ag Water Board <i>Feb AWB Admin</i>			\$4,877.58	
Ag Water Board <i>Jan grant projects, sponsorships</i>			\$600.00	
Vern Vande Garde <i>per diems (1)</i>			\$90.00	
Reichhardt & Ebe <i>Augmentation Grant</i>			\$490.85	
End of Month Balance				\$68,307.27

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	58,531	9,755.16	48,775.84
Projects	23,636	200.00	23,436.00
Insurance/Adm	4,191	180.00	4,011.00
	86,358	10,135.16	76,222.84

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

II. Old Business

- A. Ag Water Board report
 - Legal - Lummi Settlement Negotiations – Fred noted that “partnership” remains an elusive goal but the Portage Bay Partnership was moving down the road in the right direction. The two lead farms have been identified. Agreement on the technical experts has been more difficult. They are working on a Scope of Work for the experts that will be advanced by both the Tribe and the farmers.
- B. Annexations – Henry wondered if the BWID was interested in proceeding with Ferndale flats annexation. He will consult with Scott and get back to the Board. It was felt that Bertrand WID would be the best fit for including this area.

C. Augmentation Project

- Task #3 - Augmentation – prepare for permits for fall, 2017
 - Jeff Bedlington, Marty Maberry, Greg Ebe, are the three were are planning to contract with.
 - SEPA and HPA permit applications are prepared by R & E.
 - The cost reimbursement agreement for the WID wide water right has been signed.

D. Ground water Modeling – Phase #4 funding is nearly determined. The plan is to have this initiated by April and completed by Spring, 2018.

IV. New Business

A. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Badger Bridge project request – the County is upgrading the bridge and senses a need to address upstream bank erosion. The project would likely cost \$30-40k. David and Frank will see what NSEA might be able to do to bring down these costs.
- Culvert replacements - <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/fishpassage/> - Vern attended a workshop where it was made clear that replacing culverts can be a more attractive mitigation for drainage work than tree planting and maintenance. EQIP has dollars to help farmers with culvert replacement which could bank mitigation for the WID. EQIP can only help farmers. DNR has funds for forest owners. There are no costshare funds for replacements for small land owners. Most small culvert replacements are in the \$10-15k range. The Duffner Ditch outlet is a high priority project with costs more in the \$100k range.
- Vern noted he had talked to water managers in BC at a water presentation at the Pacific Ag Show last month. They encouraged us to call them if we have more cross boundary water concerns like the dried up ditches last summer.
- Programmatic Drainage Permits - WCD assistance - Frank Corey may have a few hours each month to help WIDs develop 5-year Programmatic Drainage Plans. The merits of having a 5- year Programmatic Permit were reviewed. Pete moved to ask Frank to help develop such a permit for the BWID, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Fred noted that an all WID meeting to discuss Comprehensive Plans and strategies is planned for March 21st. Fred has gained approval from the Conservation Commission to get help from facilitator Rey Ledgerwood to advance WID plans and actions. He is available on March 21st and other WIDs have suggested an all WID meeting where Comprehensive Plans, Strategies, and Action Items are both jointly discussed and then broken into each WID discussions. Plans are being made to cancel March WID meetings and to focus on this agenda for March 21st

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results were good in January.
- ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – calibration has proven to be more difficult than planned. The high numbers in the fall were not generally correlated with lab tests.
- Exact Scientific – source tracking technology is purchased but little movement on testing local e coli sources.
- CAFO Permit – Fred noted that meetings concerning the newly released permit were being held throughout the State.

C. Water Quantity

- Legislation in Olympia – Bill provided a list of water bills with some highlights on bills that are making progress in the system. HB 1885 seems to be the preferred option for our famers as it fixes both *Hirst* and *Foster* and has bipartisan involvement.
- Water Supply Strategy draft is being worked on by the AWB Water Supply committee.
- Whatcom Water Supply Coalition – meets the third Thursday of each month. More water work is coalescing in this partnership which includes the cities, the County, PUD, AWB, Water Districts, and Water Associations. Birch Bay’s Deep Aquifer project reports there as does the Drought Response Taskforce, and increasingly the Lummi Infrastructure project.
- Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project – the first well was not a productive as hoped but the second well has exceeded expectations in volume and quality. Another well is being drilled shortly.
- Water Bank grant application – The AWB is submitting an initial application for helping to develop Water Banks to the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program administered by WSDA. The project follows initial work of this nature done by the Snoqualmie WID and helps develop the mechanisms to move water both seasonally and permanently between farmers and other water suppliers.

D. Education

- WSU Water Workshop – February 22
- Website www.bertrandwid.com

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

March 21

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____