

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 10, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Al De Boer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Lindsay	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Dumas	<input type="checkbox"/> Joanne Greenberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of February 13 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		\$5,960.03		
Fund Balance 3/1/2017		\$34,344.56		
Fund Balance 4/1/2017		\$40,053.22		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$40,053.22
Outstanding bills:				\$16,584.31
Ag Water Board <i>March, April AWB Admin</i>			\$9,755.16	
Ag Water Board <i>website fees</i>			\$225.86	
Vern Vande Garde <i>per diems (3)</i>			\$270.00	
Reichhardt & Ebe <i>Augmentation Grant</i>			\$6,333.29	
End of Month Balance				\$23,468.91
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	58,531	19,510.32	39,020.68	
Projects	23,636	200.00	23,436.00	
Insurance/Adm	4,191	675.86	3,515.14	
	86,358	20,386.18	65,971.82	

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

II. Administrative

- A. Review and approve Priority Issue and Activity lists

Accomplishments	Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
Raised assessment to have revenue for technical and legal assistance	1. Water rights	Water augmentation project finished	
Surface to ground water		Surface to groundwater transfers...support	

		legislation and legal effort	
Streamflow augmentation project			
Funding for ground water model			
Active on Lummi negotiations	2. Water Quality	Continue water quality testing to bring quality back	
Water quality sampling			
Guide Meridian ditch work	3. Drainage		Consider working with Frank to prepare the 5 – year permit.
Culvert replacements			
Worked with Heather on resource inventory		Update Comprehensive plan	
New tide gate on Schell Creek	4. Flood Management		

The issues and priorities developed at the All WID Planning meeting were reviewed and amended.

- B. Update Comprehensive Plan - the outline for the Sumas plan was reviewed. Scott moved to contract with Heather for \$2,000 to provide the same service, Pete seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- C. Annexations – considered but no plans for 2017 annexations.

III. Water Supply – Henry reviewed current actions including:

- A. Augmentation Project
 - Task #3 - Augmentation – prepare for permits for fall, 2017
 - Jeff Bedlington, Marty Maberry, Greg Ebe, Larry De Haan have potential sites
 - Initial agreements needed for two of Marty’s sites.
 - SEPA and HPA permit applications are nearly ready.
 - Aeration devices are designed and will need to be manufactured.
 - Chuck submitted a QAPP for review.
- B. Olympia Report – fate of ESSB 5239 – tied up in budget negotiations. The Tribes remain opposed and the Governor has promised he would not sign what they oppose. Several water attorneys are working together to develop a compromise that could gain support. AWB and Family Farmers are sending support letters for 5239.
- C. Whatcom Water Supply work group – A list indicating the membership and goals of this organization was distributed. Issues being addressed and/or managed by this group include:
 - Lummi Infrastructure project
 - Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project
 - Ground water Modeling
 - Drought Contingency Plan
 - WWSWG Action Plan
- D. Ecosystem Recovery Plan – Whatcom response to Puget Sound Partnership [http://wrialproject.whatcomcounty.org/Get-Involved/Whatcom-Local-Integrating-Organization-\(LIO\)/Whatcom-LIO-Ecosystem-Recovery-Plan/120.aspx](http://wrialproject.whatcomcounty.org/Get-Involved/Whatcom-Local-Integrating-Organization-(LIO)/Whatcom-LIO-Ecosystem-Recovery-Plan/120.aspx) . Henry was

concerned that the Plan developed for the Puget Sound Partnership would become the basis for the entire Water Management Plan. It is salmon recovery centric and doesn't deal with issues like drainage.

- E. WRIA #1 Policy Board – the place for the WIDs and AWB in the outline of the organization of the local Water and Salmon Management Boards was not satisfactory. It appears that at best we are an ad hoc member of staff level management team with no authority to participate in the planning efforts even though we manage the bulk of the lowlands being discussed. Henry noted the reasons leading to this and wondered if the actual effect truly mattered. Steve suggested that the local government caucus make a clear effort to include the WIDs.
- F. Watershed Planning Unit – learning phase – summary of plans and actions being developed
- G. Water Bank application – This application is nearly ready to submit to the last review round. It would support work to review water rights and prepare several transfers making use of a water bank.

IV. Water Quality

- A. Monitoring Results – generally good with some very bad numbers coming out of Canada.
- B. ZAP units – one has been approved on the Fishtrap at the LCHS salmon site. The site at the PUD has not yet been calibrated to have confidence in the data. Hanna at Lummi is the contact for it.
- C. Exact Scientific – source tracking technology – Rep. Buys is trying to find some State money to support the \$150k need for developing samples to be used to calibrate the testing equipment.
- D. CAFO Permit – a few are likely to apply for it.
- E. Portage Bay Partnership report – debate over Experts continues. Some progress on the horizon.
- F. Report on landowner contacts – Fred made 2 contacts.
- G. The WCD has alerted farmers to an opportunity for more cost share to expand storage.
- H. Fred noted the emphasis on the Bertrand by Ecology's water quality monitoring program has ended. We may need to increase our monitoring levels to have quality data.

V. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Ditch maintenance – no discussion
- B. Culvert replacements – the WDFW map of culverts and blockages was displayed. The idea of getting culverts fixed and banking the mitigation for future ditch maintenance projects was appealing.
- C. 5-year programmatic permit – S Lynden is having a 5 Year Plan developed for the entire WID. Frank Corey is preparing it for them.

VI. Education/Communications

- A. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- B. Hirst discussion – Marty and Greg met with Eric to discuss his recent draft paper on ag water use. Greg has invited him to see firsthand how irrigation occurs this summer.
- C. Claim forms – a discussion over the value of documenting water use to support potential transfers in the future brought up the value of the Claims forms. Chuck noted that even though some of them appear invalid on their face an argument can be made for some of them that they help build a case for historic water use.

VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Legal – Bill Clarke continues to provide legal services and education support in Olympia on a monthly retainer.

- B. AESI instream flow report – Chuck Lindsay’s team has been hired to provide a clearer understanding of how to look at the In-Stream Flow settings on the River and tributaries. They should have a report prepared in the next two weeks.
- C. Strategy review – the list of strategies and actions for the AWB that was generated at the Planning Workshop was distributed. Input should be provided to Scott, the AWB representative from the WID.

Strategy	Lead
Communication/Outreach	
Preserving the “one voice” outreach...continue work with key partners...work together to defend agriculture and get the word out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom Family Farmers – Fred, specific partners – e.g. public affairs people in organizations • Story specific for information • Brad & Rich
Communication and community outreach...message in positive way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
Habitat for species...telling people what farmers are doing to benefit habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Legal	
Continue to identify legal access to water supply...acquiring, getting water where it needs to go	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Henry, Chuck, Greg
Work together on tribal negotiations on water quality and supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation Team, Fred, Greg • Needs expanded and probably a different team as supply is addressed
Legal challenges, and holding them off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry
Quality	
Work together on funding for and implementation of DNA testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David – N3, Landon, Kent,
Water quality projects and how it effects our industry...improving and communicating xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred, • See above
Drainage	
Get permits faster and eliminate some of the paper work – 5 year Programmatic Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karin, Frank, Joel, Henry, Fred
Supply/Access	
Water quantity projects and ability to have water long term for future generations...mitigation banking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry
Organizational/Administrative	
Tracking legislation, rule making, agendas, and impacts at County, State, Federal levels...agriculture representation on committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry, Bill, Fred, partner individuals
Utilize the influence system of collective WIDs including messengers and skills development (training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom Family Farmers
Organize the listing of committees and groups to get agriculture representation on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry, Fred and members

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:05. Next meeting is May 8 provided a quorum can be generated. Farmers will likely be pressed for fieldwork at that time.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____