

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 12, 2023, 2 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86520251632?pwd=ajZlVHRhUlcRNTkzOVk0RmhoWFVtdz09>

Vern VandeGarde Scott Bedlington Mike Schoneveld
 Pete Vlas Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 Frank Corey Bill Clarke Alan Chapman
 Jay Chennault Gavin Willis Trevor Gearhart
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:07.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 10 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

B0623	AWB	Sept - Dec, permit fee	\$33,397.08
B0623	Cowling Consulting	FEMA consulting	\$1,560.00
B0623	AESI	supply consulting	\$1,691.25
B0623	Vern Vande Garde	per diem (3)	\$384.00
		TOTAL VOUCHER	\$37,032.33

Scott moved approval of the consent agenda, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply – Henry reported . . .

- a. Watershed Management Board working on a new 5-year plan
 - Add settlement, flood, drainage, land use to work plan
 - Add request for full vote for AWB – pending
 - \$350k per year – not available until adjudication is filed, concern over timeline
- b. Local Government Caucus meetings
 - Appointed PUD as Chair
 - Agreeing to listen to federal settlement idea
- c. Lynden area transfers – Jay has been working on a few transfers
- d. Bill reported he is speaking to the local realtors this week. Ecology has also reported the adjudication is not likely to be filed until early 2024.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. FEMA update
 - Fishtrap dike remains a question as to how extensive we want to renovate it. We are keeping the application current but focusing more in Sumas for now and will have a better understanding of how the FEMA process works later this year.
- b. FLIP update – Fred noted recent studies have indicated a large amount of sediment accumulating in the Nugents Corner to Everson reach.
- c. Ditch maintenance – Jackman ditch has already dried up at the border. Another concern to be voiced to the BC government.
- d. Mitigation for Fishtrap bridge removal – cleared, spray this summer, plant in fall
- e. Buffers
 - State providing at least \$25m for buffers
 - Conservation Commission charged with developing workable standards
 - Peter moved to approve sending the key landowners letter that we’ve been working on inviting a discussion over how the new flexibility in buffer design might promote more

buffers and take the pressure off the mandatory buffer advocates, Scott seconded, motion passed unanimously.

- f. CLASS update – Hydraulics study should be done by fall. Rumor of sending more of this water east into the Duffner system dispelled.
- g. Beaver trapping – USDA contract is in place.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results were discussed. Few issues south of the border.
- b. Cross border issues
 - Letter from NLWID on the high fecal counts coming across the border. Generated a lot of interest in Canada. Getting more interest locally as well.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update
 - High flow: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fzAOxA5TII>
 - Indicates that the fresh water influence on the Portage Bay shellfish beds is between 3-30%.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.bertrandwid.com

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

September 11, October 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____