

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 8, 2019 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 Chuck Lindsay Stacey Beier
 Joel Demory Katie Mullan Sam Merrick
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of March 11 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply - *tabled*

- a. Drainage Based Management – tasked to County – pushing for June start
- b. Ecology Rule Making – amending the Nooksack Rule
 - a. AWB requests (attached)
 - b. Open Houses – April 22 – 1-3 in Ferndale, 6-8 in Lynden
- c. Advice to landowners via the Spring newsletter

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Duffner tidegate project – Rheichardt and Ebe have designs finished and are seeking approvals by all needed parties. They anticipate meeting with the landowners soon.
- b. Drainage projects – County and WDFW will meet with all WIDs about projects. The board was asked which projects should be submitted for the Bertrand WID. The Duffner tidegate project is the top priority. The way the west Lynden commercial and industrial zone is drained was also discussed. Is Lynden's \$1,500 annual contribution to DID #1 adequate to cover the increased costs of water management due to flashier flows? The DID was asked to document the increased costs and the BWID would help present a case to the City for more help.

Jackman Ditch was also noted. The County has had issues mowing there and as a result drainage has been impacted. Fred wondered if this would be an area where the WID might consider spraying. The section flowing west from Jackman Road to Bertrand should also be examined and maintained. It was noted the County had some responsibility to help keep this maintained to protect Jackman Road.
- c. FLIP process – Fred is meeting with Paula soon to prioritize which projects should be advanced this year. The Duffner tidegate project may be ripe for action soon but moving through the red tape in time to get help this summer might be a challenge. Expanding the scope of this project to make Duffner an improved fish stream would also be explored. Dale will talk with Frank at the CD about that possibility.

IV. Water Quality

- a. WSDA Pesticide Monitoring program – WSDA's Joel Demory presented the results of the Surface Water Monitoring program conducted by WSDA since 2013. They have several sites throughout the Stage they are gathering data to inform decision makers about the impact of pesticides in ag streams. Bertrand is monitored in two spots, one at the border to track the BC impact, the other near the mouth at Rathbone Road. 144 chemicals are being tracked. Results show a lot of detects but few

chemicals over the legal limits. Those that were are coming out of BC. Fred will alert the Transboundary Working Group to this concern.

- b. Portage Bay press release – by both WFF and Whatcom County. Story made it to the Bellingham Herald this week.
- c. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – hoping to help inform the wildlife and waterfowl contributions to fecal numbers.
- d. Ecology Mailer – Sam noted the mailer sent to all non-dairy livestock owners this spring warning about risky practices. She also noted Ecology has use of a Florometer for a few months which can help to identify if septic waste is influencing counts
- e. Report on landowner contacts – 1 landowner near Jackman Ditch was discussed and the renter would be in touch about risky practices.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- b. Newsletter – WID activity report – Vern reviewed the draft report.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

May 13 – likely cancelled

June 10

Sept 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____