

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 12, 2018 Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Vern VandeGarde Scott Bedlington Mike Schoneveld
 Pete Vlas Greg Ebe

 Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 Chris Clark Chuck Lindsay _____ Kasey Cykler
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 8 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>1/1/2018</u>	<u>Last Month</u>	<u>2/1/2018</u>	<u>ANNUAL TOTAL</u>
2017 Assessments Received		\$50.94		\$50.94
Fund Balance	\$11,873.28		\$2,729.90	
Beginning Year Balance			\$11,873.28	
Outstanding bills:				\$10,865.73
Ag Water Board	<i>Feb AWB Admin</i>		\$4,874.32	
Vern Vande Garde	<i>per diem (2)</i>		\$180.00	
Chmelik, Sitkin, Davis	<i>lawsuit</i>		\$136.91	
Reichhardt & Ebe	<i>Augmentation Grant</i>		\$3,178.50	
Exact Scientific	<i>DNA study</i>		\$2,496.00	
End of Month Balance				(\$8,135.83)
	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	58,531	9,748.64		48,782.36
Projects	23,636	2,496.00	\$0.00	21,140.00
Insurance/Adm	4,191	316.91		3,874.09
	86,358	12,561.55	\$0.00	73,796.45
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
2015 Capital Grant	\$183,613.73	\$34,327.65	\$180,340.03	\$3,273.70

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

II. Administrative

- a. Review Priority Issue and Activity lists – Develop 2018 Action priorities
 1. Contact Ecology and seek approval for a permanent water right permit for the Augmentation project.
 2. Complete the remaining surface to ground water transfers
 3. Pursue 5-year programmatic drainage permit
 4. Explore irrigation efficiency program through Conservation Commission.

III. Ag Water Board

- a. Strategic Planning sessions – The Ag Water Board is focusing on crafting a clear set of positions conveying our perspectives on what needs to happen at the Watershed Management Board. The next meeting is set for February 21st.
- b. County response to water legislation
 1. Moratorium on accepting building permits has been lifted

2. Update watershed plan to address in-stream flow goals – advancing projects that enhance watershed health must be included in the Plan Addendum due in February, 2019.
 3. Planning Unit as place for community discussion – The AWB has worked to rejuvenate the drainage seat on the Planning Unit. Fred will serve as lead backed up by Loren Vander Yacht and Jeff De Jong.
 4. AWB’s place in Management Board has been made official. We are an “AD HOC” member.
- c. AWB “Next Steps” proposal is continuing to get internal feedback from the WIDs. The AWB has a goal of making this proposal public in later March.
1. Vet with Lummi – AWB wants Lummi feedback before the ideas are presented to the public. How to best approach Lummi is being explored. There was concern that this proposal should have a “soft start” and be reworked as needed before becoming too public.
 2. Present as logical progression of the process they outlined in 2015 – a draft of our proposal indicating how it follows behind the ideas Lummi presented in 2015 was discussed.
- d. Winter newsletter – The AWB newsletter is in final layout and should be out later this month.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Ditch maintenance – Fred will talk with Tony @ WSDOT about the east Guide ditch. Bertrand is willing to have portions of the west Double Ditch sprayed under the NLWID permit and pay proportional costs. Board members will evaluate what portions could benefit from it.
- b. Stormwater in Duffner – a letter to the City was sent on behalf of DID #1. The City expressed support for relooking at this relationship. DID #1 commissioners felt that the 2005 Agreement between West Lynden LLC and the DID was still a fair agreement to all. \$1,500 annually was paid for a few years before these payments stopped. Whatcom County Public Works is assisting the DID in preparing a draft contract between the two parties that would reactivate the old agreement. It will be presented to Lynden soon. The DID would like to see payments for the past 8 years when they had to manage the water without contributions from the City. Chris Clark mentioned that replacing the Duffner floodgate would be a potential joint project that could also get financial support from the USDA/EQIP program.
- c. 5-year programmatic permit – Frank Corey has been notified that Bertrand is interested in having a permit prepared this year.
- d. De Vries – Chris reported that NRCS was going to be burying some ditches at Rich De Vries. He wondered if we still had interest in burying these ditches low enough to intercept larger amounts of groundwater for stream augmentation. We don’t have a plan or funding for that currently.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – only high counts occur at the border. The Governor’s office is engaged in talking with BC agencies and governments. Rich Appel has been asked to speak to an International Joint meeting dealing with water issues.
- b. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – Double Ditch site is operational. Fred is hopeful it will help understand the very high counts coming across the border periodically.
- c. South Lynden source tracking project report - @ February 13th SLWID meeting. Fred noted the State budget has \$125k devoted to this type of work. The Conservation Commission will have to go through a RFP process to distribute it.
- d. Sediment – Fred noted Ecology is paying more attention to sediment in ditches. There have been a few reported complaints. Ecology has pointed to construction standards as

a resolution. That is seldom very applicable. Fred will set up a meeting with Ecology involving Doug Allen.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- b. E-Newsletter – still an idea. Needs content and a list of emails.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

March 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____