

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 11, 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
 Meg Harris _____ Chuck Lindsay Heather MacKay
 Alan Chapman Stacey Beier Jeff Cedarbaum

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

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

II. Administration

- a. Potential candidates for future board positions – Henry circulated a list of parcel owners within the WID with more than 10 acres of land. The idea of having a list of interested individuals that would be willing to receive and review the agendas and attend occasional meetings was advanced. Names mentioned included Steve Groen, Tim Vander Haak, Glen Blankers, and Dean Tjoelker. Henry also asked for correction in ownership as the list was generated from a database over 5 years old.
- b. Strategic Planning – review annual priorities on website, Management Plan – considering how the WID might help provide ditch mowing services was discussed. Doug Bajema is considering purchasing equipment to provide this service.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management – Henry reported
 - Expect Ecology funding – should know mid-March
 - Puget Sound Partnership Near Term Action funding possible
 - One of the elements in the WRIA #1 5-year Action Plan
 - Meetings to set up where, when, and how DBM occurs
 - Likely beginning in Drayton, Bertrand
 - Establish a Core Group that works together in each drainage – 2 WID, 2 County, 2 Tribe, PUD, WDFW, DOE.
- b. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - PU continuing to work on update to 2005 Plan
 - Management Board returning to implementing 5-year workplan – the Lummi’s are suggesting more focus on hatchery production. The Port of Bellingham’s proposal to locate a hatchery in Squalicum Harbor was discussed. It would be for raising chinook which would primarily provide orca food.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Duffner project – Dale reported the draft tidegate plans were being reviewed. 2 14’ culverts are part of the design. 5’ tidegates will be needed.
- b. Review and approval of 5 – year drainage permit – the plan that Frank Corey prepared was reviewed. Greg moved to approve the plan with the caveat that the fish presence map remain a work in progress, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- c. FLIP process – looking for pilot projects – Fred updated the Board on the FLIP process. It has been slowed a bit by not having high flows this winter to provide needed data. Recent emphasis is on identifying potential early action items and

determining which should be prioritized. Fred reminded the Board that it is quite likely Whatcom PW Flood Division will receive state funding which includes \$600k for an ag/fish/flood project(s). He is challenging WIDs with river frontage to generate potential projects. Ideas discussed were the tidegates on Duffner and considering the oxbow area on the Dickenson farm north of the cement plant.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – looking good in recent months. Meg noted the CD was working with the Fairgrounds on improved water quality protection measures.
- b. Portage Bay – on January 23rd the opening of the spring closure was announced. WFF is providing a press release celebrating this success story.
- c. Vigilance – Fred reviewed some pictures WSDA had provided at the Manure Mgt. Training session in January. Much has approved but there are still issues that need continued attention. The water quality alert letter sent out by the WID in January was also noted
- d. Ecology Nitrate monitoring project – Fred reviewed a presentation Ecology had provided on nitrates in north Whatcom groundwater. They did a major follow-up study to the 1997 report in 2018. Nitrates were trending lower but there were still issues along the BC border. Ecology is seeking cooperative landowners in the Bertrand and North Lynden WIDs to provide them sites for monitoring wells. Scott moved to have Fred work with Bertrand landowners to find appropriate spots for these wells, Greg seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- e. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife - beaver

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- b. Ecology newsletter – Jeff noted Ecology had sent out notices to over 700 non-dairy livestock owners in Whatcom County, 100+ in Bertrand. The notices were to alert livestock owners to water quality concerns and programs that could help.
- c. Newsletters – Meg distributed copies of the WCD and PIC newsletters.
- d. Open Public Meetings Act training was provided for Board members

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

April 8

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____