

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Meeting Minutes for: February 10, 2020 Meeting, 2pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley 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"/> Fred Likkel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Boggs	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 7 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Ag Water Board	<i>Jan - Feb</i>	\$10,064.38
Vern Vande Garde	<i>per diem (1)</i>	\$90.00
Reichhardt & Ebe	<i>Duffner project</i>	\$1,937.15
TOTAL - Month		\$12,091.53

- In light of the engineering costs on the Duffner tidegate project exceeding the \$20k budgeted Scott moved to budget an additional \$5k to the project, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Correction in the January minutes – “Dale has the permits nearly ready for review”
- Scott moved approval of the Consent Agenda with the corrected minutes, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Whatcom Conservation District workplan

George Boggs presented for the Whatcom Conservation District. Their Board is in the middle of a 5-year workplan (2017-2022) but desired a community discussion to “proof up” their assumptions and make needed adjustments to the Plan. The WCD is preparing a survey of its constituents and asked if the WID would help gather responses. We will distribute and also discuss our priorities at our next Board meeting. George altered the Board to the WCD’s desire to establish a base of funding so they would not be as reliant on grant funding. The proposal of \$5/parcel countywide would generate nearly \$500k annually to be used to firm up priority programs that don’t get grant funding and provide matching funds for grant funded programs. This funding plan would generate \$18k from land in the WIDs, \$30k from non-WID parcels in the ag area, and approximately \$450k from urban and rural residential areas. Plans are to present this idea to stakeholders, hold a Public Hearing before the WCD Board in June, and present this request to the County Council in July.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management pilot – Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton
 - First mtg 12/16 – data gathering, next steps are to develop a database of current data for each pilot, send an RFP to candidates to summarize that data for each pilot and suggest management solutions for the group to consider. The focus will be on water supply but there will be room for habitat and water quality discussions.
 - Linking this process to the Flood Management work under the FLIP process is a goal advanced by the AWB.
- b. AWB Grant from Ecology - \$150k for 2 years
 - Develop Project Lists – surface to ground and augmentation potential sites
 - Implement 2 conversions, 1 augmentation project
 - Project meeting with Reichhardt and Ebe and AESI - 13th

- c. Adjudication meeting – Lummi joined Nooksack in sending a letter of request for a basin-wide general stream adjudication. This makes what we earlier sensed was a low likelihood more likely. Ecology’s point person to explore potential adjudication locations throughout the state will meet with the AWB February 12th. We determined to invite all WID Board members to listen into this discussion.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Duffner tidegate project – Dale has the design report ready for review.
 - Status of funding – Diking and Drainage Districts are committing \$10 each. There is still a \$100k funding gap. The cleanout and plantings along Duffner will likely be regarded as Phase 2 of this project. Initial cost estimates are in the \$40k range. Asking the City of Lynden for support should be considered.
 - Formal request to Fish, Farms, and Floods program – Mike moved to request \$100k from the Fish, Farms, and Flood grant program to complete the Duffner Tidegate project, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously. Frank and Dale will adjust the draft budget to support this request. Scott suggested that in-kind work be reflected in the project budget as well.
 - Construction timeline should be in place soon. Dale will coordinate the bid process.
- b. FLIP project tour – opportunities for funding were advanced in this tour. The Duffner Project received positive comments from the entire group.
- c. Flood damage – Henry reported that Rich De Vries stopped in and asked about WID involvement in maintaining the bridge over Bertrand on his property. This was constructed by NSEA in cooperation with the WID 10+ years ago. Frank offered to talk to Darrel at NSEA to look into this further.
- d. Culvert replacement – the Board reviewed the online WDFW culvert map located at: <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/fishpassage/index.html>
Board members were asked to Click on the yellow (partial barrier) or red (full barrier) triangles and a site specific report will pop up. Generating ideas for WID specific projects would be helpful as we prepare our 2020 Project budgets.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred noted that nearly all scheduled monitoring events over the past months happened to coincide with flood events. Unfortunately, “dilution as the solution to pollution” did not prove true.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- b. Special Purpose District proposed legislation – abuse of tax payer funds in a King County Drainage District has caused proposed legislation that would drastically change the structure of special purpose districts like the WIDs. Bill is monitoring and reports the changes are likely dead for this year.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

March 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____