

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 9, 2018 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
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of March 12 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

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

II. Ag Water Board

- a. AWB “Next Steps” proposal
 - i. Vet with Lummi - Present as logical progression of the process they outlined in 2015. Greg Ebe is leading the connection with Lummi.
 - ii. Emphasis on implementing projects – demonstrate our commitments – including the surface to ground water conversion project opportunities in ESB 6091.
 - iii. Goal of having Lummi and AWB advance Drainage Based Management at the Watershed Management Board in Fall.
- b. Foster Task Force pilot program – opportunity for all WID members with a surface water right that you would consider moving to groundwater.
 - i. Need a list of applicants by June 1 – BWID assumes De Haan, Smit, and De Valois are still interested. Matt Maberry and Frank De Vries were noted as other potential applicants.
 - ii. Would apply for funds to cover water right transfer processing and cost share
 - iii. R & E and AESI assisting in locating likely candidates. Henry referred to the maps provided by AESI. Our goal is to identify several (2-4) potential surface water rights that might be converted to a groundwater source.

Purposes of the project are:

1. Demonstrate our commitment to improve stream flows
2. Assist farmers with getting water rights solidified and infrastructure updated.
3. Make sure we don’t lose water rights because of nonuse or underuse.

Priority projects will be:

1. Upstream
2. Significant volume
3. An interested party with few complications.

WID board was encouraged to study the maps and help identify potential projects meeting these criteria. We would like to keep soliciting interest in this type of a project as we expect there will be more opportunities in future years.

- c. Spring Workshop on water right tools – likely early June.
- d. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update – Ecology is trying to provide a clear definition of “net ecological benefit”, a requirement in the ESB 6091 legislation. There will be a need for mitigating projects and ag in the best place to provide them.

III. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Ditch maintenance – March 20 field meeting with County and WDFW – Fred reported it went well. Fred will continue to connect with WSDOT on the Guide ditch north of Badger.

- b. Stormwater in Duffner – contract between City and DID #1 – Mike will present the current draft to the City.
- c. 5-year programmatic permit – initiated soon by Frank Corey
- d. Flood- FLIP – a meeting to discuss the results of the sediment study will be held Thursday.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – high counts in the Bertrand at the border. Other areas looking good.
- b. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – not yet installed in the Bertrand.
- c. South Lynden source tracking project report - @ future SLWID meeting
- d. Joint Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District Advisory meeting – 25th

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- b. E-Newsletter
- c. WFF – REAL campaign
- d. First Salmon Ceremony will be on May 17, 2018 from 10:00 to 2:00

VI. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Hirst paper – Greg wondered about a coordinated response to the latest update of Eric’s paper on the Instream Flow Rule. While Eric’s conclusions and recommendations are generally in alignment with ours, his understanding of how the rule was set and how it is to be used remains misleading.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

June 11

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____