

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Meeting Minutes for: April 13, 2020 Meeting, 2pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 703 808 761

 x Vern VandeGarde Scott Bedlington Mike Schoneveld
 t Pete Vlas t Greg Ebe

 x Henry Bierlink Dale Buys t Fred Likkel
 Frank Corey t Alan Chapman t Tom Perkow
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of March 9 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Vern Vande Garde	<i>per diem (1)</i>	\$90.00
Reichhardt & Ebe	<i>Duffner project</i>	\$1,623.03
TOTAL - Month		\$1,713.03

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication Position Paper
 - Checking draft with local partners
 - Release to general public late April – seek support for our position
 - Send to Ecology in early May
 - Board indicated approval of the process and content
- b. Application for grant to complete more projects identified in DBM – submitted, \$500k – this will continue the work started under the \$150k grant we are currently working on.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Duffner Tidegate project – Frank has completed and submitted the JARPA and HPA applications so we are on course for work this fall.
- b. Drainage discussion with Lynden, NLWID – rather than meeting a list of concerns has been drafted and circulated so all the parties are aware of the other’s concerns. The board reviewed the draft and agreed it reflected the BWID’s issues. A future meeting will be planned once all parties have completed this review.
- c. Ditch maintenance – the Guide ditch on Feddema’s west boundary remains a concern. Fred noted the change in personnel at WSDOT has made connecting with them a challenge. Pete reported the Badger bridge over Duffner Ditch is slated for replacement soon.
- d. Flood Committee update – Fred noted that the Flood Committee had approved the Duffner tidegate project for funding and looked favorably at the Cougar Creek tidegate for future funding. A new grant for these types of projects has been submitted and would become available in summer 2021.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred noted the quality numbers were relatively good in the BWID this past month.
- b. DNA project – Proposal from Exact Scientific – Fred summarized the project proposals that Kent Oostra had submitted. There were 5 separate modules that focused on potential risk areas, each with a budget for completion. The proposed modules are:
 - Dairy/Beef \$ 9,650

• Avian	\$20,000
• Domesticated animal	\$19,200
• Human	\$17,000
• 1 animal source	<u>\$ 5,300</u>
	\$71,150

The LWID board met earlier and felt that this would be best coordinated by the AWB as all farmers would benefit from this work. Starting with one module was the consensus and see if we could build on that. Pete moved to allocate \$5,000 of the BWID project budget to focus on the Avian module, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously. The goal will be for all the other WIDs to contribute proportionally to the \$20k project budget.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- b. COVID-19 implications – Fred noted that a top concern among farmers and farmworkers is how to ensure worker safety and availability. Family Farmers is looking for stories of how farms are addressing this issue and would like to feature these stories to counteract the alarms that some labor organizing groups have been making in the media. He solicited ideas that Family Farmers could pursue. Greg suggested that a story about automation would be helpful. It would illustrate how progressive farmers are about finding ways to address labor concerns and protect farmworkers from risk.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

May 11 – likely postponed
June 8

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____