

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 13, 2023, 2 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89513090761>

Vern VandeGarde Scott Bedlington Mike Schoneveld
 Pete Vlas Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 Frank Corey Bill Clarke Alan Chapman
 Jay Chennault Gavin Willis Trevor Gearhart
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:01.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of February 13 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
B0323	AWB	May - August	\$33,353.88
B0323	Cowling Consulting	FEMA consulting	\$1,657.00
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$35,010.88

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Ecology adjudication budget request and proposed legislation – HB 1792 - Henry updated the board on the legislature’s progress on the adjudication funding and filing request. HB 1792 has passed out of the House on a 97-0 vote and is in the Senate.
- b. Budget proviso – tech data and adjudication assistance – will be determined near the end of the session in April.
- c. [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted scheduled for April 26th.
- d. Lynden area transfers – no further information

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. FEMA update – little progress – still have \$40k approved for a study of the Fishtrap levee but Dale senses this would be a much more expensive project.
- b. Fred provided an update on FLIP progress. The Reach 5 FLIP team is scheduled to meet on April 28th, and is starting to think about how to prioritize action items.
- c. Gavin and Fred will be at a meeting with the small cities on Friday, Mar 17 about expanding the span of the Everson bridge. WSDOT would like to know if they need to do anything, and the county does not seem to have any recommendations.
- d. Ditch maintenance – discussion with County on what road ditches need cleaning is upcoming. Jackman ditch has been mentioned.
- e. De Boer mitigation – NSEA provided an estimate for the mitigation required on the Fishtrap project we completed last fall. \$10,500 for 650 feet wide. The requirement is only for 200’ which would lower the cost significantly. We had budgeted \$2,500 for mitigation and applied \$2,900 to the project matched with \$3,000 from Diking District #4. Stremler’s costs were \$5,753. Result is \$2,600 in the mitigation budget. There may be opportunity here to do more and bank mitigation for other projects.
- f. Buffers
 - Fred updated the board on the status of buffers in Olympia. There seems to be a wave of funding coming but little agreement on what standards will need to be met.

- WCD worksession followup – Frank updated the [map showing priority areas](#) and included a [buffer list](#) for all the WIDs. Bertrand has the highest percentage in the green category.
 - Discussion about incentive payments to landowners for buffers. Annual rentals are one option, purchasing a conservation easement is another. Funding is available via State Conservation Commission, CREP, and NRCS; best funding source may vary depending on details specific to each project. There is also potential in the future for continuing income related to ecological benefits from buffers. The WID may be a more responsive entity when it comes to that than the county, land trusts, etc.
 - Discussion about buffer width and management. Recognition that 200'+ buffers are not acceptable, but that 10' buffers will probably not meet requirements. Data shows that 35'-50' buffers provide 80-90% of the benefit of SPTH buffers. Also a need to be able to manage the drainage (including mitigating impacts from beavers and sediment buildup, and removal of invasive species).
 - Discussion about Frank's proposed letter to landowners in the WID. Letter generally looks good, although may need info about buffer size and landowner incentives. Was determined best to send letter to landowners in areas where buffers can have the greatest impact, likely soon after the session. Frank will come to the next meeting with a list of key landowners, and the WID can send out the letter once we have more information about available funding sources.
- g. CLASS update – Fred noted the Hydraulics study was likely funded and to begin soon.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Trevor reported generally good with the exception of a few high counts following the big rain on the 21st of February.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.bertrandwid.com

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Vern adjourned the meeting at 3:22. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10 but attention to the field work weather may require cancellation. The goal is to have at least 1 more spring meeting before the July, August break.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____