

# Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: February 12, 2018 Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Vern VandeGarde       Scott Bedlington       Mike Schoneveld  
 Pete Vlas                       Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink               Dale Buys                       Fred Likkel  
 Mike Murphy                      \_\_\_\_\_ Chuck Lindsay                      \_\_\_\_\_ Kasey Cykler  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mary Dumas                      \_\_\_\_\_ David Haggith                      \_\_\_\_\_ Steve Jilk

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

### I. Consent Agenda

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

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

### II. Ag Water Board

- a. March Board meeting – planned for March 21
- b. AWB “Next Steps” proposal
  - a. Vet with Lummi - Present as logical progression of the process they outlined in 2015. Greg’s connection with Chairman Julius is the most logical means of advancing this conversation.
  - b. Emphasis on implementing projects – demonstrate our commitments as stated in our newsletter.
  - c. Goal of having Lummi and AWB advance Drainage Based Management at the Watershed Management Board this Fall
- c. Foster Task Force pilot program – opportunity for all WID members with a surface water right that you would consider moving to groundwater.
  - a. Need a list of applicants by June 1
  - b. Would apply for funds to cover water right transfer processing and cost share
- d. Spring Workshop – Greg suggested we consider offering a workshop for farmers prior to the irrigation season. Topics should include the opportunity to participate in surface to ground transfers, seasonal transfers, and how we might distribute water from deep aquifers or storage facilities via a water bank or exchange.
- e. Office relocation – 204 Hawley Street
  - a. Rent increase - \$1,200/mo. – shared with Family Farmers
  - b. Scott envisioned picking up some of these costs from meeting room rentals.

### III. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Ditch maintenance – March 20 field tour with County and WDFW – Fred is coordinating. Frank Corey is likely to attend as well. North Lynden initiated this for their projects. There is time for other WIDs to have this team look at projects as well.
- b. Stormwater in Duffner – contract between City and DID #1 is being reviewed at the County. Should be ready to present to the City soon.
- c. 5-year programmatic permit – initiated soon – Fred will see if there are some drainage projects we’d like to address under this permit this fall.
- d. Guide drainage – The Guide ditch north of Badger remains a problem. Fred will connect with WSDOT.
- e. Flood Plan – Fred noted an early April meeting was being planned to discuss revisions to the Flood Plan. There is a push to get a much better understanding of sediments in the River.

#### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – looks good again. Everyone is paying more attention to management. Fred noted the DOH would be doing intensive monitoring in Portage Bay during the April – June closure. They will be concentrating on sampling following rain events to see if they can develop a correlation between rainfall and high counts. Fred also noted the Governor’s office has been actively engaging with counterparts in British Columbia regarding high counts coming out of Canada.
- b. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – The Double Ditch site is installed but was frozen in the recent storm.
- c. Sediment – Ecology meeting – Fred connected with Ecology who made it clear this was not a new priority for enforcement but simply a response to complaints for two isolated incidents.
- d. South Lynden source tracking project report – likely to be presented at the April SLWID meeting.
- e. DNA support – the State has \$125k applied to furthering DNA work. An RFP will be issued soon. Exact Scientific’s project should be a prime candidate.

#### **V. Education/Communications**

- a. Website - [www.bertrandwid.com](http://www.bertrandwid.com)
- b. E-Newsletter – still being developed
- c. Family Farmers – Fred announced a new initiative centered around “Real Environmental Action and Leadership”. Stories being developed include Fourmile, Bertrand, and irrigation efficiency.

#### **VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

April 9. Board is inclined to skip the May, July, and August meetings. We will leave them on the calendar but are likely to cancel these meetings if the agenda is light.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_