**Bertrand Watershed Improvement District**

**Minutes for:** March 14, 2022 Meeting, 2 pm

Videoconference – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82467719392?pwd=OC9NWXVGNkMwV05LUnBzcmJSODN1Zz09>  
Meeting ID: 824 6771 9392 Passcode: 319338

\_\_x\_\_ Vern VandeGarde \_\_x\_\_ Scott Bedlington \_\_o\_\_ Mike Schoneveld

\_\_x\_\_ Pete Vlas \_\_x\_\_ Greg Ebe

\_\_x\_\_ Henry Bierlink \_\_t\_\_ Dale Buys \_\_x\_\_ Fred Likkel

\_\_x\_\_ Matt Maberry \_\_x\_\_ John Clark \_\_t\_\_ David Haggith

\_\_x\_\_ Jay Chennault \_\_t\_\_ Katie Faber \_\_t\_\_\_ Sara O’Brien

\_\_x\_\_ Steve Banham \_\_t\_\_ Alan Chapman \_\_t\_\_\_ Kelly Hamilton

*x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference*

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:04.

# Consent Agenda

# Review and Approval of February 14, 2022 minutes

1. Financial Report

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Voucher # | Payee | Purpose | Amount |
| B0322 | AWB | March, April AWB | $11,308.44 |
|  |  | **TOTAL VOUCHER** | **$11,308.44** |

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

1. **Ag Water Board/Water Supply**
   1. Water supply update
      * AWB contracted with Somach Law - focus on building alternatives to adjudication – federal, settlement options
      * Legal – Water Supply Team members preparing contract with same legal team
   2. Solutions Table
      * County working with Jay and Maia anticipating a May/June start
      * Linking with proviso supporting federal involvement in water mgt. (flood, supply, habitat)
      * Project List – to be offered at Solutions Table as advised by the facilitators.

- Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted

* 1. Water Right acquisition candidates – 80 sorted by:
* *Certificates with 4 or fewer land owners, sorted by Qa from highest to lowest.*
* *Claims with 4 or fewer land owners, sorted by irrigation acreage from highest to lowest*
* *Certificates with 4 or more land owners, sorted by Qa from highest to lowest*
* *Claims with 4 or fewer land owners, sorted by irrigation acreage from highest to lowest*
* Determine who and how to contact @ a future mtg
* Menu of options for landowners – Henry, Bill, and Jay are working on a menu of options that could be presented to the water right contacts. Our first priority remains having the landowner defend their own right and keep using it for irrigating their land. But if they are not likely to do so we want to present them multiple options for how the WID can assist.
  1. Lynden area water right transfers – Jay walked the Board through several areas:
* Pepin Creek development – areas along Benson and Double Ditch roads were reviewed. There are several rights in this area that are likely to be converted to City in the next 20 years. The WID should monitoring land use changes and be aggressive about pursing these rights for a water bank.
* West Lynden - Lynden Door site. Scott and Mr. Bargen have been talking and it seems clear to us they are interested in transferring that right so that it is kept in agriculture.

The Bertrand WID asked Jay Chennault at AESI to facilitate sales, leases, and transfers of water rights from areas where future irrigation is no longer needed or from areas where it is doubtful the parcel owners will defend their rights in an adjudication. The Bargen right is a clear example of this. We are hoping that they might consider placing this right in the State’s Trust Water Right program so the risk of relinquishment is abated. We will then work with Jay to develop the best procedure to remove rights like this from the Trust Water Rights program and make them available for farmers in the future.

1. **Drainage/Habitat/Flood**
2. Flood response – Henry is working with FEMA to see if there may be support for cleaning ditches silted in by the flood.
3. Ditch maintenance
   * Double Ditch – consider spot cleaning
   * Jackman ditch – needs attention from De Haan’s to Vander Haak’s.
   * Glendale Rd/Loomis Trail corner – Frank and Joel will examine options.
4. West Lynden stormwater – Steve explained the City has some Port support to survey the area. Dale outlined the potential path for more stormwater through the Mouw Ditch and the needed upgrades to accomplish it. Sara explained the role the Willamette Partnership plays in facilitating bringing partners together to address complex problems and design and implement solutions. Landowners expressed concerns about how much water would be coming in the future, how this work would affect the Rathbone Rd bridge area, and the need to keep the crossings on the ditch. They liked the idea of having the eastern segment removed from the fish presence maps and begin the fish habitat where the riparian area currently exists.
5. **Water Quality**
   1. Monitoring Results – David and Fred noted results were very low recently.
   2. DNA testing – David had one test analyzed but the results were ambiguous.
   3. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – no tests were conducted while flooding was occurring.
   4. Drainage based Management – a Bertrand scoping meeting will occur in the next month. The Tribes indicated interest in water quality. Fecal numbers have been good. The WSDA pesticide study on Bertrand will likely be referenced.
6. **Education/Communications**
   1. Website – [www.bertrandwid.com](http://www.bertrandwid.com)
   2. AWB flyer and draft cover letter – 455 letters mailed, 2/27 – few responses and most of those were positive.
   3. Family Farmers Rally – March 29th – cancelled – the need for an educational event is still pressing. Fred suggested that there may be a late May to mid-June window where we would have more to report and that the Somach Law attorneys would be up to speed and ready to give some quality direction to farmers.
7. **Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Vern adjourned the meeting at 4:10. Next meetings are April 11, May 9, June 13

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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