

# Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: September 14, 2020 Meeting, 2pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 847 9800 5719 Passcode: 939043

Vern VandeGarde       Scott Bedlington       Mike Schoneveld  
 Pete Vlas                       Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink               Dale Buys                       Fred Likkel  
 Frank Corey                       Alan Chapman                       David Haggith  
 James Bouma                       Vince Stremmer                       Gary Goodall  
 Lonni Cummings                       Paula Cooper                       Steve Banham

*x = present*

*o = absent with notice*

*t = teleconference*

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:04.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of June 8 Minutes
- b. Financial Report - reviewed
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

B0920	Ag Water Board	September AWB	\$5,032.19
B0920	Enduris	annual insurance	\$3,435.00
B0920	Reichhardt & Ebe	Duffner project	\$13,602.32
		<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>	<b>\$22,069.51</b>

Greg moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Pete seconded, motion carried unanimously. Henry will correct the financial reports to reflect the additional \$5k committed to the Duffner project from the WID in April. Having funds transferred from the DID and Diking Districts should also be explored.

### II. Administrative

- a. Address audit issues
  - Update engineering contract with a name other than Greg’s who sold his interest years ago.
  - Address minor issues like time and closing of meetings and Voucher #'s in minutes.
- b. Annexations – a brief look at the Bertrand WID boundaries revealed few areas where there was annexation potential. No one asking for annexation and no clear candidates to be annexed.

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate
  - Ecology report due September 1 – delayed until September 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Upper Columbia and Nooksack were recommended and Ecology is looking for a \$1 million in Legislative funding to get these adjudications prepared. Would not file until later 2023.
  - Adjudication supported only by Tribes, Fishers, and environmental
  - Plan for Legislative education is being prepared by the AWB. .
  - Family Farmers has a campaign to inform the community of the concerns surrounding an adjudication and has generated many letters to the Governor and Ecology expressing our concerns.
  - AWB is preparing 2021 budget. Some discussion of asking more from the WIDs to prepare for adjudication.

- b. County Executive proposal
  - Built on Lummi proposal (2015) and Drainage Based Management
  - Seeking support from water users – initial feedback from the Tribes has been positive.
  - We are urging that this not create a “new” process but to energize the current work being done under the Management Board – regional water supply planning and drainage based management.
- c. Pipeline – questions about the costs of pipelines to supply water arose. Henry will try to locate the pipeline study that Bertrand, Lynden, and PUD did 10+ years ago.
- d. Regional Water Supply task force - Aspect Consulting as contractor
  - Timeline was reviewed. Intent is to complete the report by the end of 2020.
  - Draft map <http://aspectconsulting.com/wria1map> of the water rights in the three pilot areas was displayed. This project will be used to set the stage for DBM.

#### **IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. Duffner Tidegate project – Dale accepted responsibility for a portion of the issues delaying this project for another year. The important issue is to make sure we don’t have delays again. A schedule leading to getting the culvert built this winter and bids out in January is in place.
- b. Drainage planning with Lynden and NLWID – management of water surrounding the Lynden stormwater pond remains an issue. Dale will met Scott at the pond at the next rain event. We will plan a meeting with the City and the DID before the November WID meeting.
- c. Flood Committee update – Fred noted Reach 1 is the next project for FLIP. There was some discussion about the level of farm engagement in these processes if adjudication needs to be our focus.

#### **V. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – some issues this summer. Nothing glaring.
- b. DNA project – Avian project initiated but slowly. Fred reported that Kent could not get the extra labor help he had counted on from Karen Steensma’s students because of the border shutdown. The CD has offered to help in November and December.
- c. EQIP – The CD sent a schedule for EQIP requests. It is not clear who can help farmers prepare applications with Chris Clark moving south. He is still helping with ongoing contracts. However, new applications may be more difficult. Frank Corey is willing to help on habitat related projects. Erika at NRCS can still help on designs but Chris’s work in preparing applications isn’t as robust. Dakota will be providing some help.
- d. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – tests have been good. Some concerns on the mainstem and some higher numbers above Everson. State DOH is preparing a sanitary report, which is needed every 12 years. They are also looking at their testing protocols.

#### **VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.bertrandwid.com](http://www.bertrandwid.com)

#### **VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Vern adjourned the meeting at 3:25.

October 12

November 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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