

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 10, 2019 Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Vern VandeGarde Scott Bedlington Mike Schoneveld
 Pete Vlas Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 Frank Corey Stacey Beier Sam Merrick
 Alan Chapman Steve Jilk Chris Elder

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 8 Minutes
- b. Financial Report – *see financial report in board packet*
- c. The following vouchers are approved for payment:

Ag Water Board	May, June AWB	\$9,683.50
Vern Vande Garde	per diem (1)	\$90.00
Reichardt & Ebe	Duffner project	\$6,701.50

TOTAL - Month **\$16,475.00**

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply – Henry reported:

- a. Drainage Based Management – will be initiated as a subset of the Water Supply Plan facilitated by the PUD – Drayton and Bertrand are primed to begin as there is funding from grants managed by the PUD and Birch Bay Water and Sewer.
- b. Streamflow Restoration Grant application – waiting for contracts for higher rated projects to be completed in July, expecting some funding for fall.
- c. Ecology Rule Making – amending the Nooksack Rule – several conference calls with Bill and Ecology – see comments on the proposed rule @

<http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/comment/extra?start=301&id=GFRjc>

It was noted that the tribal comments were generally favorable toward our projects with some concerns expressed. The comments from ReSources were opposed to using our projects as offsets for rural wells. A discussion with ReSources is being arranged.

- d. Nooksack Tribe water right adjudication request – may create more pressure for Ecology although there are numerous other adjudication requests pending as well.
- e. Drought declaration – grant opportunity that may help us with some seasonal transfers <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Drought-emergency-grants-2019>

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Duffner tidegate project update – Dale gave a status report on the project. Timelines are getting tight for installation this summer. Adding a cleanout of the west portion of the Duffner plus mitigation by planting shrubs may add more impetus to the project. Frank and Dale are not giving up for this year. Funding is not fully resolved. Need a project plan and then a quote from Stremler Gravel to identify needs. Plan a followup meeting for June 24th, 3pm involving WDFW, DID #1, Stremler.
- b. Shuler bank stabilization project – funds or in-kind assistance - \$9k short – Pete moved to approve \$3,000 to help meet the projects deficit, Mike seconded, motion passed unanimously.

- c. Drainage projects – County and WDFW met with all WIDs about projects – looking for use our investments in the Duffner and the Badger bridge as “advance mitigation” or banked mitigation for future cleaning projects.
- d. Jackman Ditch spraying – Fred will talk to the County about the status of the Jackman ditch flowing west along Terry’s property.
- e. Update on Floodplains by Design discussions and potential projects – Fred outlined the status of the proposed flood mgt project on ag lands. It is funded for \$500k and we proposed several areas on the River to consider. However, we have also made it clear that farmer participation is on a two-way street. We will give but we also need to have our needs addressed. These are primarily in sediment management and water rights.
 - a. Sediment management looked to be advancing with a bill reaching the governor that would foster a discussion over sediment management. But this was line item vetoed.
 - b. Water rights discussions have been in neutral for months even though the drainage based management task in the Water Management’s 5-year workplan had this process planned to be underway last fall.

Fred canceled a planned tour of projects set for May 31st because of these setbacks. That led to a meeting with Paula and the Nooksacks which began to renew our partnership with them on these matters.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – mostly positive. A few isolated concerns. Sam noted that the fluorometer had been returned but there was a good chance of getting it back this fall. Ecology is planning a mailer this fall as well to smaller, non-dairy farms.
- b. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – Fred noted this work was gaining some traction in BC.
- c. Landowner letter – Fred anticipates sending another “be alert” letter to landowners prior to fall manure applications.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.bertrandwid.com
- b. Newsletter – out in June
- c. AAC – Chris Elder reported on work of the Ag Advisory Committee. He circulated some maps indicating the rates of conversion out of ag land since 2004. He noted the land use tools that the AAC is recommending to the County as ways to address the loss of ag land. One of the tools (PDR) has \$1.3 million in grant funds available to apply to ag conservation easements.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Special Meeting – June 24, 3pm – Duffner project
Sept 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____