

# Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 8, 2020 Meeting, 2pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID 874 3671 2918 Password: 160706

Vern VandeGarde       Scott Bedlington       Mike Schoneveld  
 Pete Vlas                       Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink                       Dale Buys                       Fred Likkel  
 Frank Corey                       Fred Vander Veen                       David Haggith  
 James Bouma                       Vince Stremmer                       Gary Goodall  
 Lonni Cummings                       Paula Harris                       Steve Banham

*x = present*

*o = absent with notice*

*t = teleconference*

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 13 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

Ag Water Board	May - August AWB	\$20,128.76
Vern Vande Garde	per diem (1)	\$90.00
Reichhardt & Ebe	Duffner project	\$2,157.22
	TOTAL - Month	\$22,375.98

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

### II. Administrative

- a. Adopt Purchasing Policy – A clear purchasing policy for the WID is needed to make the funding for the Duffner tide gate project work properly and stay in line with state purchasing requirements. Scott moved approval of the BWID Purchasing Policy, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Appoint Auditing officer – A requirement of the Purchasing Policy is the appointment of a designated Auditing Officer for the WID. The Auditing Officer needs to have a \$50k bond. Mike moved appointment of Henry Bierlink as the BWID Auditing Officer, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- c. Approve sole source request letter – the board reviewed and agreed to submit the Sole Source request for the purchase of the tide gate.
- d. Approve Interlocal agreement – County, DID, BWID, EQIP applicant – Paula and her team were instrumental in developing the agreement of multiple parties involved in funding the tide gate project. Mike moved to approve the BWID’s involvement in the ILA, Peter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate – Henry reported:
  - AWB position shared by Bellingham, PUD, private wells.
  - The County is currently choosing to remain neutral in the debate hoping to be in the position to facilitate future negotiations either under an adjudication or remaining in negotiations under the Water Management Board. AWB is pressing the County and the Planning Unit to take a position in opposition to adjudication.
  - Adjudication supported only by Tribes and environmental caucus of the Planning Unit.
  - Ecology position likely by July. Report to the Legislature is due in September.
  - COVID impacts on the State budget make funding for a new adjudication in 2021 very unlikely. However, Ecology could file the legal work for an

adjudication on its own. Legislative approval is only for funding. We do not want the Nooksack to be recommended.

- Fred reported that Family Farmers is actively campaigning to avoid an adjudication.
- b. Regional Water Supply task force selected Aspect Consulting as contractor. This is the beginning of the Drainage Based Management negotiations that we are advancing instead of an adjudication. The consultant team selected to guide this process is new to AWB but has worked for both Tribes in the past.

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

- a. Duffner Tide gate project – the specs and bid package is being developed by Dale. Should be in place before the end of June. Once bids are received we anticipate a special BWID board meeting in mid-July to:
  - Award the Bid
  - Amend the R & E contract to cover the anticipated expenses
  - Approve the Sole Source contract with the costs included
- b. Drainage planning with Lynden and NLWID – the importance of addressing a coordinated water management plan with the NLWID and Lynden was restated. The issues each of the entities had outlined was reviewed. Henry noted that Steve Banham is planning on participating in the NLWID meeting next week. The Bertrand board will be invited to participate in that discussion.
- c. Ditch maintenance
  - Badger bridge over Duffner – WSDOT is preparing
  - Feddema’s – will include there place in the NLWID spray permit
- d. Flood Committee update – Fred noted the board has been focused on the Duffner tide gate project and is expecting to add another tide gate project on Cougar Creek in 2021.

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

- a. Monitoring Results – limited monitoring has been occurring. WQ website has not been updated.
- b. DNA project – Avian project initiated – all WIDs contributed to make the \$20k available. Fred expects Kent to have something to report this fall. Fred noted that Karen Steensma was part of a grant project studying bird behavior that may be able to augment this DNA project with some help and funding.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update - Fred reminded the Board that shellfish harvesting is open with the exception of October – November.

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

- a. Website – [www.bertrandwid.com](http://www.bertrandwid.com)
- b. Ag Engineer support position – no action on pursuing this as it is unclear if the WCD is still attempting to advance the assessment idea. Chris Clark is still helping with the existing EQIP contracts. Unsure if he will be available to help with future ones.
- c. COVID-19 concerns – a brief discussion of how the various sectors of agriculture were addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 virus.

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

September 14

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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