

# Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

## Meeting Minutes for: March 9, 2020 Meeting, 2pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Vern VandeGarde       Scott Bedlington       Mike Schoneveld  
 Pete Vlas                      \_\_\_\_\_ Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink               Dale Rutgers               Fred Likkel  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Frank Corey               Chris Elder              \_\_\_\_\_ David Haggith

Alan Chapman              \_\_\_\_\_ Vince Stremmer               Meg Harris  
*x = present*                      *o = absent with notice*                      *t = teleconference*

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of February 10 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Ag Water Board	<i>March, April AWB</i>	<b>\$10,064.38</b>
Vern Vande Garde	<i>per diem (5)</i>	<b>\$450.00</b>
Reichhardt & Ebe	<i>Duffner project</i>	<b>\$1,943.52</b>
TOTAL - Month		<b>\$12,457.90</b>

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management pilots are meeting in Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton.
  - [RFP out for data synthesis](#) - summarize data for each pilot and suggest management solutions for the group to consider. Deadline is March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Adjudication discussions expressing our concerns with:
  - County Executive
  - Other partners
  - Watershed Management Board – March 16<sup>th</sup>
- c. Application for grant to complete more projects identified in DBM process as developed in the pilots.

### III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Duffner Tidegate project - Fred noted the Steering Committee had recommended \$100k to be applied to the Duffner tidegate project.
- b. Drainage – Dale Rutgers spoke to concerns about ditch maintenance in the floodplain. The stormwater pond operated by Lynden is handling more water than what the system can handle. The City has agreed to contribute \$1,500 annually to DID #1 but no one knew if this was happening. The Board suggested a meeting of DID #1, Bertrand, N. Lynden, and the City to make all parties aware of current concerns, implications of development of future drainage, and what role each entity should be taking to improve drainage.
- c. FLIP opportunities – Support for the tidegate project sends a good message about future ag projects in the floodplain. The Flood Board is preparing a new grant request to continue to support projects like this that support both fish and farms.
- d. Culvert replacement options

<https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/fishpassage/index.html>

Board members reviewed the yellow (partial barrier) or red (full barrier) triangles in the WID. A goal is to help facilitate culvert replacements which could be used as “banked mitigation” for future ditch maintenance projects. No obvious projects were identified for the 2020 Project budget. Fred will talk with Frank about where we might prioritize this work.

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

- a. Monitoring Results – Meg described the recent results as “patchy”. Most are good but areas of concern remain.
- b. PIC Program – Meg reported that the County has selected the Bertrand as the next intensive water quality study area. Fishtrap has had weekly or bi-weekly sampling in numerous sites for the past 3+ years. 8-10 sampling sites are being identified in the Bertrand. A letter to landowners from the Bertrand WID introducing the purpose and structure of this program will be considered.
- c. DNA project – sampling to support further development of this project was considered but the more ideal approach would be to have a full plan for furthering this work in place and find the grants to support it. Meg noted that the CD had meet with Exact to discuss this. They are developing a module approach to advance this work.
- d. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred noted that many farmers had been “termed out” of these boards leaving many vacancies. They are attending as non-voting members to keep the mission moving in the right direction. He noted that DOH is more open to shorter term closures rather than the seasonal closures that have been occurring.

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

- a. Website is regularly updated @ [www.bertrandwid.com](http://www.bertrandwid.com)
- b. WCD Engineer support position – The Laurel WID is suggesting that farmers might consider either fully or partially funding an ag technician/engineer from WID generated dollars. This will be discussed at the AWB meeting. This approach was judged preferable to supporting the parcel assessment idea promoted by the WCD Board. Board members were encouraged to complete the WCD’s survey located at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVNTT6Z>
- c. Opportunity for [Purchase of Development Rights](#) - Chris alerted the Board to the opportunity in the PDR program. This program has an additional infusion of funds from a grant that will provide more opportunities to landowners. Henry noted that development rights are likely to be one of the items on the negotiation table in the DBM process and having a number of landowners indicating their interest in exploring the PDR program would be a helpful negotiation item.

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

April 13  
May 11 – may be cancelled  
June 8

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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