

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes –Regular Meeting March 10, 2025 2pm

Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Vern Vande Garde Greg Ebe Scott Bedlington	Pete Vlas Mike Schoneveld

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Tania Grim	Ag Water Board
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Katie Faber (t)	AESI

Proceedings

Vern called meeting to order at 2:19pm

1. Consent Agenda

- The agenda was reviewed.
- Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed.
- The financial report was reviewed.
- Voucher B.Gen.0325 in the amount of \$10,462.02 was reviewed.
- Greg moved to approve the consent agenda. Scott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. FEMA Projects

- Gavin provided a FEMA update.
 - FEMA approval for the flood gate is still pending.
 - Gavin will follow up regarding the timing for floodplain debris removal.

3. Class

- Gavin provided a CLASS update.
 - The Board reiterated the desire to move quickly addressing getting the Rathbone culvert blocked.
 - Gavin will follow up with Ecology.

4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- Gavin provided an adjudication update.
 - SB5212, which will allow pre-code water users without statement of claim to file in the adjudication, went through the senate unanimously. The next step is a hearing at the House.
 - Ecology has indicated that summons will be sent out next week. While this process could take some time, the goal is for everyone in the adjudication to receive their summons by May 1.

- iii. Bill is setting up a meeting with the Director of Ecology to discuss potential settlement options.
- b. A short clip on King 5 news highlighted water rights adjudication.
- c. Office hours are available for sign-up on Ag Water Board website April 17 and May 7.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Gavin provided a brief FLIP update.
- b. Gavin will follow up on Beaver Trap work.
- c. The Board discussed approaches to drainage issues. It was noted that, as the WID is not an enforcement agency, its ability to address neighbor disputes is limited.
 - d. The management of DD#1 was discussed. Since part of the drainage district lies outside the WID, a merger is not feasible at this time. Legislation to address this may be possible in the 2026 session.
- i. A board member suggested an ILA between WID and DD#1, that the WID operates the drainage district may be timelier.

6. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided water quality update through email. High counts are coming from the border during a rain event. Information has been forwarded to Canadian authorities.

7. Communications / Education

- a. Gavin shared information from the Whatcom Conservation District about replacing AgWeatherNET stations. The Board expressed support for using WID funds to assist with the replacement or upgrade of these stations, as they are considered very useful.
 - i. A board member noted stations need to be placed in areas that are open to get accurate wind speed readings relevant for timing spray applications.

- 8. The Whatcom Conservation District is expected to attend next month's WID meeting to present a funding request.

9. Other

- a. Water rights info evening planned for later in the month was cancelled.

10. Next Meeting

- a. April meeting may be cancelled.
- b. Following meeting would be May 12.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by Vern Vande Kerk