

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – September 8, 2025, 2 pm

Attendees

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

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

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Tania Grim	Ag Water Board
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Trevor Gearhart (t)	Whatcom Conservation District

Proceedings

Vern called the meeting to order at 1:59.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. The agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed.
- c. The financial report was reviewed.
- d. Voucher B-Gen-0725 in the amount of \$5855.00 was reviewed.
- e. Voucher B-Gen-0825 in the amount of \$9945.84 was reviewed.
- f. Scott moved to approve the consent agenda. Greg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Gavin went over WCIP with the board. Investment pool documents and resolution will be present at the next meeting.
- b. 2026 Ag Water Board work plan was discussed.
 - i. The BWID board expressed confidence in the leadership of the AWB.

3. FEMA

- a. Gavin gave a FEMA update.
 - i. There are ongoing challenges with obligated A&E funds. The State is in discussions with FEMA. While Construction will move forward, engineering is currently on hold.
 - ii. Farm debris project and Parklyn drainpipe have both been completed.

4. CLASS

- a. Gavin gave a CLASS update.
 - i. \$142,000 in funding was given from FLIP.

- ii. We are currently pursuing RCPP funding for Mouw Ditch projects, with matching funds from the city of Lynden for Berthusen Rd.

5. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin gave an adjudication update.
- b. There was a good turn out to the hearing in Lynden on September 8, 2025.
 - i. 6000 landowners need to be served. This will take place by public docket in a county newspaper.
 - ii. Ecology will have to notify all landowners that all future notices will be by public docket. Landowners will be responsible for staying informed. Postcards with this info are expected to be sent by the end of October.
 - iii. The state budget came out. \$600,000 was requested for technical support. \$200,000 was given. \$1.4 million was requested and granted for court capital costs. \$200,000 was requested and denied for settlement costs. Roughly \$2.8 million was requested and denied for court operating costs. Ecology received all the funds requested.
- c. Judge will not allow motions to be filed until all landowners are served.
- d. Fred shared update on the question-and-answer session that followed the hearing.
- e. Gavin gave a Watershed Management Board update.
 - i. The House Agriculture and Natural Resource committee will be coming to Whatcom County for a tour in early October, including a stop at one of EBE's fields.

6. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred gave a FLIP update.
 - i. FLIP is recognizing that Widen the Funnel will move more sediment downstream, so they are looking at extending that work further downstream.
- b. Beaver management was discussed. The board will go with private beaver trappers for 2026.
- c. Fred shared about a recent Forest tour.
 - i. Fred mentioned recent developments in riparian buffers in working forest lands.
 - ii. Forest practices board is looking to further restrict logging adjacent to NP-type streams
- d. Fred noted a recent Cascadia Daily article about air pollution from farms. The article had numerous errors.
- e. Gavin noted a landowner reached about ditch cleaning. Mike will follow up with CDID#1

7. Water Quality

- a. Trevor shared a water quality update. Mostly good throughout the WID. Cross -border monitoring has improved.

8. Next Meeting

- a. The next scheduled meeting is October 13 at 2 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 pm.

Submitted by Tania Grim, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

