

# Drayton Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: September 19, 2017 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Rod Tjoelker       Scott James       Marty Maberry  
 Jeff Bedlington       Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink       Heather McKay       Dan Eisses  
 Jim Bucknell       Aneka Sweeney       David Haggith  
x = present      o = absent with notice      t = teleconference

### I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of June 20 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1				
2017 Assessments Received		\$23,762.41		
Fund Balance      6/1/2017		\$41,600.46		
Fund Balance      8/1/2017		\$36,234.82		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$36,234.82
Outstanding bills:				\$7,774.34
Ag Water Board <i>July Aug AWB</i>			\$5,005.34	
Enduris <i>Insurance premium</i>			\$2,769.00	
N3 <i>water quality monitoring</i>				
<b>End of Month Balance</b>				<b>\$28,460.48</b>
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>		<u>Balance</u>
AWB	30,032	19,948.40		10,083.60
Projects	10,587	3,144.00	(\$2,500)*	7,443.00
Insurance/Adm	3,691	2,969.00		722.00
	<b>44,310</b>	<b>26,061.40</b>		<b>18,248.60</b>

\* Plan and DNA commitments

Greg moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### II. Administrative

- A. Review and approve Priority Issue and Activity lists

Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
1. Water Rights	Continue to work on deep water aquifer...move beyond just the exploration...to supply or mitigation of new water rights	Support BBWS in exploration and distribution
	Working with farmers on legal avenues to move water around...spreading, piping, water bank, transfers	Educating farmers about the resources available to them
2. Water Quality	Continue to monitor water quality and find hot spots	In progress
3. Comprehensive Plan	Public relations...family farmers to dispute misinformation	In progress through WFF

4. Drainage	East side of WID has little fall. Drainage is more of an individual matter. West side has DID #7, Need to better connect with them. (Ed P.)	Seek to help in facilitating permitting
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- B. Comprehensive Plan preparation – Heather led the Board in a review of Tables 1 and 2 in the draft plan. She will incorporate the edits into the next edition which we will target to be reviewed in October. Once the draft is approved it will be placed on the DWID website subject to ongoing edits by the Board. An idea that the Sumas WID has adopted is a 5-10 minute review of a specific section of the Plan at each meeting.
- C. 2018 Workplan & Budget
  - 1) Budget planning for 2018 – assessment rates – AWB has presented a draft budget request similar to 2017. The WID needs to assess its project needs and determine if a change in WID assessment rate is needed. A decision needs to be made at the October Board meeting. The DWID’s project budget is \$10,587. Anticipated expenses in 2018 are not yet clear.
  - 2) Nominations – Marty and Jeff – Greg moved to nominate Marty for another three-year term, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously. Jeff is moved to the North Lynden board and would like to be replaced. Suggested nominees included: Jeb Miller, Steve Midboe, Dave Brown, Dave Buys, and Mike or Dave Van Wingerden.
  - 3) Legal Notice - must be published in Lynden Tribune October 18, 25, November 1

**DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE** – *all Watershed Improvement Districts*

*Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:*

- 1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – one position in Bertrand, two in Drayton, two in Laurel, one in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o’clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.*
- 2) Inspect the 2018 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in the Bertrand will be heard at 2pm, November 13th, for Sumas at 1pm, November 14th, for South Lynden at 3pm, November 14th, for Laurel at 10am, November 13th, for North Lynden at 10am, November 21st, and for Drayton at 3pm, November 21st, all at the District’s office. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 18th to November 11th.*

*Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts’ offices located at 1796 Front Street, Lynden.*

**III. Water Supply**

- A. Birch Bay Water & Sewer Deep Aquifer Project – the third well is nearing completion. It also looks promising. Ferndale has also drilled a 1040’ well that seems to be supplying quality water. There has been no action on the new grant application which would fund a few more wells and more work on answering the questions of where and how the water would be distributed. An initial look at options and needs has already been started. The Drayton and Bertrand WIDs have been consulted as to their potential needs.
- B. Olympia Report – Hirst and funding for water projects – Olympia is stalemated. There is potential for a \$450k grant to the County to facilitate water discussions and help develop more management tools in the yet to be passed Capital Budget.
- C. Water Supply Work Group report – Henry noted that the Water Working Group was overseeing the following projects:
  - i. Drought Contingency planning
  - ii. Infrastructure evaluation
  - iii. Renewed push for negotiations leading to binding agreements

**IV. Water Quality**

- A. Monitoring Results – David hadn’t tested since June. Those numbers were good.
- B. South Lynden source tracking project – delayed, will be in place Aug –November.

- C. N – Study – David noted that WFF and the DPC helped to fund a N-study locally. The results demonstrate the improving N numbers in our soils. A Press Release is forthcoming.
- D. N Budget – David noted the transboundary Nitrogen Study that was occurring. A two-day meeting was held last week.
- E. Report on landowner contacts – one farmer was consulted and informed about high numbers in his area.

## **V. Education/Communications**

- A. Website - [www.draytonwid.com](http://www.draytonwid.com)
- B. Water Symposiums – Sept 20-21, Nov. 1. – Henry encouraged WID members to attend these educational opportunities. The September 20<sup>th</sup> program is of particular interest as both Rich Appel and Brad Rader will be presenting for agriculture. The November 1<sup>st</sup> program will focus exclusively on water supply issues.
- C. WCD Speaker Series – The WCD provided a list of topics. The AWB is helping to sponsor these talks.
- D. WFF Farmer Rally – Henry provided information on a November 2<sup>nd</sup> Farmer Rally

## **VI. Ag Water Board**

- A. Winter newsletter – we will go to a summer/winter newsletter as WFF is planning a spring/fall newsletter.
- B. Water Rights letter and future workshop – the potential of increased water right enforcement pointed towards the need to better educate farmers on their legal options. A letter was emailed to all farmers in July. A workshop in late winter remains a possibility but with few enforcement actions this summer it may not be an urgent need.
- C. CAO and impervious surface update – Farm Bureau has led this effort. Consensus is that both issues are being resolved in an acceptable manner.
- D. County water program funding update – Henry noted that the County was leaning towards establishing a storm water utility district in the Lake Whatcom area which would take some financial pressure off the Flood Fund.
- E. Portage Bay Partnership update – Henry expressed hope that the difficulties in making progress were only hurdles in the long process of building relationships that provide both parties and opportunity to communicate.

## **VII. Adjournment/Next Meeting**

October 17

November 21

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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