

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – June 18, 2024

Attendees

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

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Scott James Jeb Miller Rod Tjoelker Greg Ebe	Marty Maberry

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Jay Chennault	AESI
Katie Faber	AESI
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers
Bill Clarke (t)	Clarke Law
Sarah Faubion (t)	AESI

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Mike Love	BBWSD

Proceedings

Rod called the meeting to order at 3:02

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from April 16th meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial report and voucher in the amount of \$12,389.25 were reviewed.
- d. Scott moved to approve the consent agenda. Greg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Bill provided an adjudication update. Initial hearing is on June 26th.
 - i. ECY will request a briefing schedule so that on or about August 30th the court would set a date to file court claims. We would see a proposed claims form prior to that date.
 - ii. Expect then a summons date in November 2024, barring significant appeals to claims form and service process.
 1. One thing to note is that it appears that ECY is moving to a single claims form for all claimants.
 - iii. AWB has requested that ECY not set a filing deadline over the summer, due to farming schedules. At this point it is looking like it will be sometime between November 2025 and February 2026.
- b. Jay provided update on water rights office hours.

- i. 56 appointments taken over the course of 2 days. GIS staff was able to automate a lot of the pre-session work. Sessions were well-received. Plan to offer more sessions in the fall; will hopefully be after the irrigation season has ended, and will likely know by then what the claims form looks like.
- c. WFF is planning another water rights info evening on October 22nd.
 - i. Greg moved to spend \$1000 for a sponsorship for the event. Jeb seconded. Motion carried.
- d. WMB Local Government Caucus will be meeting on June 20th.

3. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided a FLIP update. Modeling is underway on sediment impacts of levee setbacks in Nugents Corner to Everson reach. Whatcom County has also pushed up their timelines for work. Abbotsford is facing a number of struggles in the past few months, including a class action lawsuit, no federal funding, and a report suggesting it would be cheaper to let Sumas Lake reform.
- b. Gavin provided an update on buffer issues. First draft of the riparian roundtable report was released, calling for SPTH (and use of eminent domain to make it happen); not that surprising considering the source (report prepared by the governor's consultant, for the governor's office). On a more positive note, Gavin and Fred participated in a conference looking at buffers in Whatcom and Skagit, and the folks who are on the ground doing the work (including from ECY and WDFW) seem to recognize that SPTH is not reasonable.
- c. Jay provided an augmentation project update. Foster mitigation requirements have proved to be a more difficult hurdle than expected. ECY asked for a biological opinion to justify the determination of no net detrimental impact. The report was adjusted with some feedback from the biologists who reviewed it, and has been submitted to ECY as a final application.

4. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided a WQ update via email.
 - i. Mostly good results, with a few high counts in Dakota Creek on 6/12

5. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting dates are July 16, August 20, and September 17. Summer meetings may be cancelled if there are no agenda items.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____