

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 18, 2022 Meeting, 3 pm

Videoconference - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86156203966?pwd=REhrRW83Vnl0VGxJSUpBeklKSmJ6QT09>

Meeting ID: 861 5620 3966 Passcode: 097805

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Tjoelker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott James	<input type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeb Miller	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault
<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Eisses	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Rod opened the meeting at 3:04.

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of November 16 Minutes
- Financial Report

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

II. Administrative

- Oath of Office – Scott took the oath of office.
- Election of Officers – Jeb moved keeping the officers the same in 2022, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously. Rod as President, Scott as vice, and Marty as AWB representative.
- Public Records, Open Public Meetings review – Bill sent a memo outlining areas for WID members to be well aware of so that we remain in full compliance with state laws.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- Solutions Table
 - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating an early 2022 start
 - Potential proviso supporting federal involvement in water mgt. – AWB team is working with Legislators and partners to advance this idea in both the Legislature and at the Solutions Table.
- Project List
 - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application is being prepared. It was noted that several surface rights that we had identified earlier as potential candidates for surface to ground transfers were not on the current list. Henry will make these lists consistent.
- Water Right acquisition candidates
 - Reviewed the surface water right list (91). Intend to address groundwater rights (182) in upcoming meetings. Placing all rights in one of three categories:
 - Clearly will be defended
 - Likely defended but nudge needed
 - Unsure, susceptible to being lost
 - Determine who and how to contact once this list is completed.
 - Consider adding applications and possibly exempt wells in future lists and determine how we best make use of these to defend irrigation water.
- North County Interlocal – Dan reported that the idea had received little traction from other entities yet. The WIDs indicated support.
- Deep Aquifer Project – BBWS is meeting with Ecology to discuss applying for water rights on the productive deep aquifer wells. They also hope to meet with Lummi soon to bounce these, and other ideas around.

- f. Planning Unit update – Dan presented the PU’s recommendation to better tie water management plans with the Land Use plans in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update. The County Council seemed supportive.
- g. Dakota Creek augmentation project – Jay noted that the water rights application had been filed but Ecology had not yet approved it. Further delay may mean delaying this project until fall, 2023.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Flood response - Sumas WID decision to develop a media story with flood images and stories was discussed. Supportive but unclear what can and will happen next. Scott moved to identify \$5k from the DWID project budget to support development of this idea, Jeb seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ditch maintenance – need to identify potential projects in the next two months.
- c. WCD Update – Henry noted that Frank Corey was more available to help with fish and drainage issues.
- d. Buffer proposal – Fred noted the Legislature was advancing a bill that would require forested buffers around all waterways. Looks to be 200’ on each side of the stream. It is calculated that 30,000 acres of Whatcom farmland would be affected.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – no recent monitoring data
- b. DNA testing – David will be looking for samples that may benefit from DNA sampling.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.draytonwid.com
- b. AWB flyer and draft cover letter – reviewed and a second version will be sent to the board in a few weeks. We hope to have a final version prepared before the February board meeting and a letter sent to landowners mid-February. Including a note that the fees are set annually and the board has a goal of lowering the fee in the future was suggested by the NLWID.
- c. Family Farmers Rally – Fred noted the date is likely in late February or March and expects to be a place where farmers can become informed about opportunities for help with an adjudication, drainage, and flood management

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. PUD sent a notice inviting us to Steve Jilk’s last meeting next Tuesday.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Rod adjourned the meeting at 4:23. Next meeting is February 15.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____