

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 21, 2022 Meeting, 3 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82811901609?pwd=S0czNjdud3hwMnJKTDJwNEMxRDQ5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 828 1190 1609 Passcode: 829719

 o Rod Tjoelker
 x Jeb Miller

 o Scott James
 t Greg Ebe

 t Marty Maberry

 x Henry Bierlink

 Dale Buys

 Jay Chennault

 t Dan Eisses

 t Katie Faber

 t Nichole Fink

 t Bill Clarke

 x Fred Likkel

 David Haggith

x = present

o = absen with notice

t = teleconference

Marty opened the meeting at 3:01.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 19, 2022 minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
D0622	Ag Water Board	May, June	\$5,635.84
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$5,635.84

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
 - Somach Law – AWB and Family Farmers contracts in place.
 - Meeting with Ecology May 25th – decent tone but very different views on next steps. Ecology is committed to file for the adjudication in 2023.
 - Marty noted there was significant federal funding targeted to addressing water infrastructure projects. It will be held back from areas that are choosing to prioritize litigation over cooperation.
- b. Solutions Table and or option 2
 - Lummi nixed participation until after the adjudication is filed and also used veto power to keep Watershed Management Board from proceeding without them
 - Meeting with County May 25th – stressing need to move ahead with either Solutions Table without the Tribes or energize the Watershed Management Board process.
 - Project List
 - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted
- c. County Comprehensive Plan resolutions – a few Council members are proposing a resolution to make the Climate Action plan better integrated with the upcoming Comp Plan update. The Planning Unit is proposing a similar, but simplified, resolution to make water plans consistent with the Land Use plans.
- d. Water Right acquisition candidates
 - Menu of options for landowners – Bill outlined the steps taken and next steps leading to providing options for water right holders who may not be inclined to defend their rights in an adjudication. Priority one is to have farmers use and defend their full rights.
 1. #2 is to transfer all or some into the Water Trust to protect from relinquishment, the WID work with the landowner to conduct an “extent and validity” test to map where the right might be transferred. Seasonal transfers may be facilitated by the WID. The WID would need a contractual relationship with the water right holder to incur these costs.

2. #3 is for the AWB to host a water right exchange assisting farmer to farmer transfers. We'd need to limit this to only irrigators to avoid facilitating transfers to uses outside of ag.
3. #4 for the WID to lease or purchase the right and move it into a water bank. The Water Bank will likely be needed to pick up rights that have limited transfer potential as well as the means to distribute new water made available through pipelines, etc.

How to contact the several water right holders on our list of rights we are not sure will be defended remains uncertain. Our goal will be to have a clear Menu of Options by this fall and develop an approach to make connection with these right holders. Bill is working on some documents for our review this fall.

- e. Dakota Creek Augmentation project – Jay is working with Ecology.
- f. BBWS Deep Aquifer project update – Dan noted they had a productive meeting with Ecology and technical staff at Lummi.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. WCD Update – Henry and Fred noted Dakota had been at the other WID meetings and introduced Cynthia who was hired by WCD to replace Meg Harris. She gave her background and interest in this position and promised to be a resource on water quality to all the WIDs.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – generally good.
- b. DNA testing – David submitted 12 samples and is waiting for a full report. Initial indications point to a high % of swan.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – no news.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.draytonwid.com
- b. WFF Educational Event – May 25th – good reports and better crowds than expected. The idea of a Legislative Tour similar to the one we organized for our legal team on the 24th should be explored.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Marty adjourned the meeting at 3:23. Next meeting is ~~July 19, Aug 16~~, Sept 20

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____