

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 17, 2023 Meeting, 3 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88449355604?pwd=Y2VmNi9zV2l0SkNtWkdvVUTNRYXM5UT09>

Meeting ID: 884 4935 5604 Passcode: 230433

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Tjoelker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeb Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault
<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Eisses	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Rod opened the meeting at 3:01.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 15 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

D0123	AWB	Jan - Feb AWB	\$8,312.48
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$8,312.48

Greg moved approval of the Consent Agenda after reviewing the minutes and financial report, Jeb seconded, motion passed unanimously

II. Administrative

- a. Oath of Office – Rod Tjoelker, Greg Ebe were sworn in.
- b. Election of Officers: President, Secretary, AWB Representative – Jeb moved to keep Rod as President, Scott as Vice-Chair/Secretary, and Marty as AWB representative, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
 - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement as one option.
 - Ecology adjudication budget request may be packaged with guidelines for the adjudication and support for alternative settlement processes.
 - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – forming an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
 - AWB establishing – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – recent mtg with Ecology indicates we can do some our water right protection strategy without creating a formal bank. But we will still be pursuing it as an option if needed.
 - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – likely this summer after we see the status of the adjudication and have the parameters of the Exchange established.
 - Follow-up with key acquisition candidates as were identified by the WID Board last spring.
- c. Dakota Creek Augmentation project – contract was extended until early 2024.
- d. Birch Bay Water and Sewer update - no update
- e. North County Interlocal Agreement – no update

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance – be thinking of road ditch needs when we meet with the County in March
- b. Buffer discussion - WCD led worksession – Frank
 - Large amounts of funding from the federal and state govts
 - Funding pathways:

- i. CREP – 50’ requirement, pays rent
 - ii. NRCS/EQIP – new program, planning and maintenance
 - iii. Legislature – funding through the Conservation Commission – standards to be determined. Opportunity to help develop these standards.
- Opportunity for voluntary progress but little progress will give strength to the mandatory buffer perspective.
- Width of buffers remain a contentious issue, CREP plants 35’ with understanding it will grow out to 50”. That is the minimum. Farmers are much more comfortable with 15-20’.
- Map of regulated streams classified as Green (50’+), Yellow (present but under 50’) and Red (no buffer) distributed. Frank will calculate stream lengths in each category and we will track to use data to demonstrate our progress.
- Map needs groundtruthing. And assigning areas into 2-4 tiers indicating the priority areas for improving habitat. Frank will draft a second map for the board’s consideration.
- WID will use opportunity to advance buffers with landowners as a carrot in the water settlement negotiations.
- Consider a few Field Days – March for landowners to demonstrate working buffers and June/July for Legislators.
- Be sure we provide input to Conservation Commission when they develop standards for what constitutes fundable buffers.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Trevor provided a written report indicating the numbers were good lately.
- b. DNA testing – no update
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Trevor reported one issue in Portage that was not clearly traced to the freshwater inputs.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.draytonwid.com

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Henry called attention to staff changes at the Ag Water Board. Gavin will be coming onto the AWB staff and beginning to take over administration of the WIDs and AWB board. Henry will continue in the water supply area for awhile but moving towards retirement.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Rod adjourned the meeting at 3:55. Next meetings are February 21, March 21

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____