

# Drayton Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: March 15, 2022 Meeting, 3 pm

Videoconference – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83863181743?pwd=YXZtZU1iWUhPeUdZblVMSDhRVFJSUT09>  
 Meeting ID: 838 6318 1743 Passcode: 360691

<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Rod Tjoelker	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Scott James	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Marty Maberry
<u>  </u> o <u>  </u> Jeb Miller	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Greg Ebe	
<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Henry Bierlink	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Abby Weaver	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Jay Chennault
<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Dan Eisses	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Katie Faber	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Kelly Hamilton
<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Brandy Reed	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Fred Likkel	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> David Haggith
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Rod opened the meeting at 3:05.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of February 15, 2022 minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
D0322	Ag Water Board	March, April AWB	\$5,635.84
		<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>	<b>\$5,635.84</b>

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
  - AWB contracted with Somach Law - focus on building alternatives to adjudication – federal, settlement options
  - Legal – Water Supply Team members preparing contract with same legal team
- b. Solutions Table
  - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating a May/June start
  - Linking with proviso supporting federal involvement in water mgt. (flood, supply, habitat)
  - Project List – to be offered at Solutions Table as advised by the facilitators.
    - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted
- c. North County Interlocal Agreement – Dan had Bob Carmichael make adjustments to the Interlocal based on requests from Lynden. They included Sumas and Everson and the South Lynden and Sumas WIDs as well as incorporating coordination with the flood response effort.
- d. Deep Aquifer – Dan expects a meeting with Ecology soon and with the Tribes after that to discuss how to best put the deep aquifer water to use. He also mentioned he had participated in the Council’s water worksession earlier and again challenged the County to incorporate water into their land use planning.
- e. Dakota Creek augmentation – Jay noted that Ecology had set a meeting to discuss our water right application for later this month. There is little chance we will run the project this summer.
- f. Water Right acquisition candidates – 37 sorted by:
  - Certificates with 4 or fewer land owners, sorted by *Qa* from highest to lowest.
  - Claims with 4 or fewer land owners, sorted by irrigation acreage from highest to lowest
  - Certificates with 4 or more land owners, sorted by *Qa* from highest to lowest
  - Claims with 4 or fewer land owners, sorted by irrigation acreage from highest to lowest
  - Determine who and how to contact – the list was reviewed in part beginning with the most water and least difficulty. The board helped identify who would be the best contact for each of these rights. Lead contacts were made when possible.

- Menu of options for landowners – Henry, Bill, and Jay are working on a menu of options that could be presented to the water right contacts. Our first priority remains having the landowner defend their own right and keep using it for irrigating their land. But if they are not likely to do so we want to present them multiple options for how the WID can assist.

### **III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. Flood response – Fred reported on many ongoing discussions with the County, cities, and others. Discussions with BC are being organized.
- b. Ditch maintenance – The meeting with the County and WDFW occurred last week. No projects in Drayton were proposed.
- c. WCD Update – Brandy alerted the board to an election for the CD board on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – David noted results were very low recently.
- b. DNA testing – David had one test analyzed but the results were ambiguous.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – no tests were conducted while flooding was occurring.

### **V. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.draytonwid.com](http://www.draytonwid.com)
- b. AWB flyer and draft cover letter – 111 letters mailed, 2/27 – few responses and most of those were positive.
- c. Family Farmers Rally – March 29<sup>th</sup> – cancelled – the need for an educational event is still pressing. Fred suggested that there may be a late May to mid-June window where we would have more to report and that the Somach Law attorneys would be up to speed and ready to give some quality direction to farmers.

### **VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Rod adjourned the meeting at 4:27. Next meetings are April 12, May 10, June 14

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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