

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: November 15, 2022 Meeting, 3 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86158435266?pwd=cmdGNGNTY2JINURXeVd3Z2VWMI5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 861 5843 5266 Passcode: 086319

<u> o </u> Rod Tjoelker	<u> o </u> Scott James	<u> t </u> Marty Maberry
<u> t </u> Jeb Miller	<u> x </u> Greg Ebe	
<u> x </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> t </u> Bill Clarke	_____ Jay Chennault
_____ Dan Eisses	_____ Katie Faber	_____ Kasey Cykler
<u> x </u> Trevor Gearhart	<u> x </u> Fred Likkel	<u> t </u> David Haggith

x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

Marty opened the meeting at 3:04.

Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Greg moved to open the Board of Equalization, Jeb seconded, motion carried unanimously. With no one present to contest the assessments Jeb moved to close the Board of Equalization, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of October 18, 2022 minutes
- Financial Report

D1122	AWB	Oct. - Dec. AWB	\$8,453.76
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$8,453.76

Greg moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Jeb seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- Board nominations – Rod and Greg are elected to another 3 year term. Congratulations and Thanks!

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement – we continue to build support for this type of an approach as the major focus area with the state adjudication either replaced or incorporated in the settlement as only an element of the larger picture.
 - Ecology floating “Solutions Showcase” – learning from the [Yakima example](#) - the late October presentation to the Watershed Management Board was a ringing endorsement for our approach to resolving issues and a challenge to the adjudication first perspective.
 - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – forming an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted.
 - Ecology adjudication budget request and AWB response – we are preparing a letter to the Legislature that will be sent before Thanksgiving that challenges Ecology’s major focus on adjudication funding and instead directs investment to broader management of issues including habitat, flooding, and water supply.
- Water Right acquisition candidates
 - AWB establishing – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – Bill is setting up a meeting with Ecology to advance this.
 - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – will occur once the details of the Exchange are developed. Hopefully by early spring.

- Follow-up with key acquisition candidates as identified by the WID in earlier reviews of the water right database.
- c. AESI update – Jay had reported that Katie participated in a recent meeting where Robin MF had further outlined Ecology’s adjudication plans. They expect the Legislature to approve the requested funding and have the Governor determine to file the adjudication on July 1, 2023. It will begin in later 2023. Robin also announced Ecology has formed a simplified process for domestic well owners that would not require much effort to keep their exempt well permits. But in return they would be limited to 500 gallons a day. If they want up to the 5,000 gallon limit they would need to file along with the farmers and group system rights.
- d. Dakota Creek augmentation project – Jay had reported some movement towards getting this in place for next fall. The board expressed concern that the landowners are losing interest in participating if they will have to be defending their rights in an adjudication.
- e. Birch Bay deep aquifer project – no report
- f. North County Interlocal agreement – some progress towards getting the cities involved.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Buffer requirements – Fred noted a more realistic attitude among fisheries advocates about the size of buffers. Nevertheless, there remain political pressures to mandate 200’ buffers on all streams.
- b. WCD update – Trevor introduced himself as a new farm planner at the WCD. He is one of two new hires for this area. He will be assigned to participate in future Bertrand and Drayton WID meetings. He reminded the board that Disaster assistance funding is still available for flood damage costs and she expects this may be an ongoing opportunity for future disaster relief for farmers. It was also noted that the WCD request for a parcel assessment to provide a financial base for their programs passed County Council. This will be \$5/parcel on all ag parcels. Cities will also be assessed.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David reported that the results within the WID were good.
- b. DNA testing – it was mentioned that we may want to submit a DNA sample on the creek near Sunrise Baptist to isolate if human contribution was involved in the periodic high samples.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – the area along Dakota Creek to the west of the DWID is still a problem area.
- d. Report on landowner contacts – David noted a farmer had taken steps to minimize his potential impact on water quality and the results indicate these actions are helpful.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.draytonwid.com
- b. Comcast request – no new report

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Marty adjourned the meeting at 3:49. Next meetings are December 20, January 17 with the December meeting likely cancelled.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____