

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 20, 2018 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Rod Tjoelker Scott James Marty Maberry
 Jeb Miller Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink _____ Dale Buys _____ Chuck Lindsay
 Dan Eisses _____ Steve Jilk _____ Kasey Cykler
_____ Jim Bucknell _____ Aneka Sweeney David Haggith
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of February 20 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – Henry describes the new reporting format. Jeb moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Scott seconded, motion passed unanimously.

II. Water Supply

Birch Bay Water and Sewer deep aquifer project – Dan outlined the current status of the deep aquifer project. The initial grant is completed with 2 promising wells, a study of who might have needs for the water and potential governance structures of how to manage the supply of water. A second grant request for more wells and movement towards achieving water rights on these wells is phase 2 and not yet funded. The study revealed there is water for Blaine and Birch Bay growth projections. Potential excess water, and water not yet needed to meet the growth projections, could be made available to ag, Lynden, Delta, etc

Greg noted that BBWSD would have difficulty getting water rights for more than they can demonstrate a need for. He felt that ag (WIDs) should be partners in this project by identifying new wells and obtaining water rights for farmers. Dan agreed and stated that the more Ag can do to identify the need and how they would use the water would be helpful in obtaining additional water rights. A discussion of the next steps led to Greg moving to declare the DWID's intent to partner with Blaine and BBWSD to continue moving the project forward:

- Have the DWID develop a clear list of water needs within a specific area. Phase 1 will be the western portion of the WID west of Sunrise Road.
- Partner with BBWSD and Blaine in developing new deep wells and obtaining water rights. The first step here depends on if the phase 2 grant is successful.
- Continued discussions of how to manage the potential water supply.

Marty seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board

- a. March Board meeting – planned for March 21
- b. AWB “Next Steps” proposal
 - Vet with Lummi - Present as logical progression of the process they outlined in 2015. Greg's connection with Chairman Julius is the most logical means of advancing this conversation.
 - Emphasis on implementing projects – demonstrate our commitments as stated in our newsletter.
 - Goal of having Lummi and AWB advance Drainage Based Management at the Watershed Management Board this Fall
 - Work with Lummi to get the funds needed to accomplish these projects and keep the pressure off water right enforcement until we have opportunity to implement projects that will help both flows and farm water rights.
- c. Foster Task Force pilot program – opportunity for all WID members with a surface water right that you would consider moving to groundwater.
 - Need a list of applicants by June 1

- Would apply for funds to cover water right transfer processing and cost share
- d. Spring Workshop – a workshop for farmers prior to the irrigation season is being developed. Topics should include the opportunity to participate in surface to ground transfers, seasonal transfers, and how we might distribute water from deep aquifers or storage facilities via a water bank or exchange.
- e. Office relocation – 204 Hawley Street
 - Rent increase - \$1,200/mo. – shared with Family Farmers

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Ditch maintenance – Fred reported that the March 20 am discussion with County and WDFW went well. A number of drainage projects around the County were discussed.
- b. 5-year programmatic permit – identify projects – The area around Sunrise Road south of Badger is problematic. Not quite sure what can be done about it.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results - looking good.
- b. Ecology meeting – Fred connected with Ecology who made it clear this was not a new priority for enforcement but simply a response to complaints for two isolated incidents.
- c. South Lynden source tracking project report – likely to be presented at the April SLWID meeting.
- d. DNA support – the State has \$125k applied to furthering DNA work. An RFP will be issued soon. Exact Scientific’s project should be a prime candidate.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.draytonwid.com
- b. E-Newsletter – still being developed

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Fred noted the County would be completing a study on the River examining how much gravel is actually accumulating in the lower reaches.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

April 17. Board is inclined to skip the May, July, and August meetings. We will leave them on the calendar but are likely to cancel these meetings if the agenda is light.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____