

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 15, 2019 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Rod Tjoelker Scott James Marty Maberry
 Jeb Miller Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 Dan Eisses Stacey Beier Rick Metzger
 Alan Chapman Atul Deshmane David Haggith
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 19 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills
Greg moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Jeb seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administration

- a. Board reorganization – officer election – AWB representatives – Consensus was to keep Rod as Chair, Marty as AWB representative and Scott as vice-chair.
- b. Potential candidates for future board positions - Henry will email the list of parcel owners in the WID. Board will come with suggestions in February.
- c. Annual Review – AWB and Whatcom Family Farmers – comments were solicited.
- d. Strategic Planning – review annual priorities on website, Management Plan – Immediate Action items for 2019 were identified. Henry will draft an updated list of actions and goals for review and adoption in February.
- e. Strategic Planning – review annual priorities on website, Management Plan

2019 Action Items

1. Continue to work on new and existing water supply options
2. Continue to monitor water quality and identify areas with chronic water quality violations
3. Working with farmers on legal avenues to move water around...spreading, piping, water bank, transfers
4. Public relations...use Family Farmers to dispute misinformation about farming
5. Habitat – encourage restoration, culvert replacements, buffers and other practices that benefit fish habitat
6. Address areas in Water Law that hinder conservation and BMPs (i.e. relinquishment, year-round closures, water use calculations).

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project – Dan is closing in on a grant agreement with Ecology that would provide \$50k for determining potential markets for deep aquifer water.
- b. AWB/Tribal meeting with Lummi – on hold until Drainage Based Management is initiated
- c. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - PU continuing to work on updating the watershed management plan. The February 1st deadline will be missed. Henry and Fred are questioning the utility of investing significant time in the upcoming months in the plan update. The emphasis should be in plan implementation instead.
 - Management Board returning to implementing 5-year workplan which includes Drainage Based Management and a Water Supply plan.
- d. Ecology grant application – notice in mid-January – discussions are underway with the Management Board as to implement these projects.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- a. 5 – year permit – Frank is working on the Bertrand HPA now. Is willing to complete the Drayton once that is completed.
- b. DID #7 – Rick outlined the work that DID #7 is doing. They are looking for some mitigation sites in California Creek. Rick is partial to creating spawning habitat.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David noted most results within the Drayton WID were low.
- b. Transboundary – David attended a Transboundary meeting. BC seems to be taking water quality issues more seriously
- c. Landowner letter – recommended by AWB – Fred noted there were too many lapses in judgement this fall. A reminder letter was proposed to all WID members and recommended to each WID by the AWB. The consensus opinion was to send the letter to DWID landowners.
- d. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – Ryan McLaughlin at Exact has information to report on this project. We might consider hosting a presentation in the near future.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.draytonwid.com
- b. WCD's Manure Management workshop on the 17th.

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. [Storage Study](#) – it was noted that Chuck Lindsay had completed a brief overview of lowland water storage options for the PUD. No sites in the Drayton WID were examined.
- b. [Fish Screening requirements](#) – WDFW presented to the South Lynden WID on screen requirement for surface water diversions and a new program that will provide cost share for irrigators choosing to upgrade their screens. 3/32" screens are required. Marty suggested checking with Bill to be sure this is the legal requirement.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

February 19

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

Drayton WID Priorities, Goals, and Possible Actions

1. Water Quantity: water availability for agricultural use(irrigation, livestock, processing)

Goal: Farmers in the Drayton WID have secure (legal) access to sufficient water for agricultural uses

Actions:

- (2019) Deep aquifer project - move beyond exploration to develop this as a potential new water source.
- (2019) Pursue additional legal options to move water around - spreading, piping, water bank transfer
- (2019) Address areas in Water Law that hinder conservation and BMPs (i.e. relinquishment, year-round closures, water use calculations)

2. Water Quality

Goal: Agricultural activities in the Drayton WID do not cause water quality standards to be exceeded in surface water or groundwater bodies within the WID area.

Actions:

- (2019) Continue with the ongoing water quality monitoring & response program
-

3. Communication, outreach, and education

Goal:

Internal: WID members are aware of and understand the WID's priority issues and they participate actively in WID planning and implementation of priority actions.

External: Non-agricultural residents in the WID area, other external stakeholders and relevant bodies & agencies are aware of, understand and support the Drayton WID's priority actions

Actions:

- (2017) Developed a comprehensive plan for Drayton WID
- (2019) Coordinate with Ag Water Board to provide positive stories & correct information about agriculture
- (2019) *Public relations...use Family Farmers to dispute misinformation about farming*

4. Agricultural field drainage

Goal: Drainage infrastructure and ditches in the Drayton WID are actively and effectively maintained.

Actions:

- (2019) Develop 5-year plan for drainage
- (2019) Partner with DID #7 to implement drainage improvement and mitigation projects

5. Flood management

Goal: Agricultural lands in the Drayton WID are protected from flooding at critical times in the growing season.

Actions:

-

6. Water flow processes; Habitats & species

Goal: The Drayton WID's plans and actions help to protect and enhance water flow processes as well as fish and wildlife habitats in watersheds within the Drayton WID area.

Actions:

- (2019) Habitat – encourage restoration, culvert replacements, buffers and other practices that benefit fish habitat
-

7. Agricultural protection (Protecting the agricultural industry)

Goal: The Drayton WID's plans and actions contribute to the recognition, protection and strengthening of the agricultural base in the WID area.

Actions:

-