

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 19, 2018 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 David Haggith
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 17 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills
- c. Scott moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Jeb seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Ag Water Board

- a. AWB “Next Steps” proposal and the background surrounding current actions is summarized in a Draft AWB Water Supply position paper being reviewed by AWB board. Bill drafted this paper and hopes to have us use it as a snapshot of our motives and planned directions. We would use this paper, once approved by the AWB board, to communicate with partners and the public.
- b. Foster Task Force pilot program – opportunity for all WID members with projects that illustrate why Foster is a hindrance
 - a. Preparing a list of applicants by July 1 – a list of 8 is in the works and will be approved by the AWB board at their meeting on the 20th.
 - b. Will apply for funds to cover water right transfer processing and cost share
 - c. R & E and AESI assisting in reviewing potential projects.
- c. Spring Workshop on water right tools - June 5th report – over 20 farmers present. Many of them new to the issues.

III. Water Supply

- a. Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project – Dan had reported that he was still negotiating with Ecology on what would be covered by the new funds allocated for the deep water aquifer project. Most likely moving towards obtaining water rights which would include water for irrigation. Getting a better sense of the need would be most helpful.
- b. Phase 1 area water needs – West of Sunrise – Proposal from Reichhardt and Ebe was discussed. The steps are to:
 1. Obtain the background data from the PUD and RH2 for the defined area. Analyze.
 - i. Define the area
 - ii. Acres irrigated and crop
 - iii. Calculate total water need
 - iv. List of existing water rights within the area
 - v. Match to use as best possible
 - vi. Determine excess or deficit
 2. Using the GIS information of assumed irrigated land and documented water rights, we could provide a decision matrix to determine the validity of Permits and Claims for the irrigated land. This would give a level of certainty that the water use is or isn’t legal, and we could compare to the calculated irrigable land need.
 3. If you wanted to get more accurate, we would need to compare the claims and permits to the point of withdrawal, place of use, water used.... This would be a more complete determination of true validity of water rights and then compare that to the need. This would of course cost more money.

The board discussed this proposal. It was determined that this should be a step by step process. What we learn from analyzing that data will inform how deeply we need to go to meet our data needs. Jeb moved to approve up to \$3,000 for R & E to complete step #1 and begin work on Steps #2 as budget allows and work in conjunction with Dan Eisses to gather the water need data by September, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Ditch maintenance – no current projects
- b. 5-year programmatic permit will be started soon with Frank Corey’s help.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David reported that most tests were good with a small blip in May.
- b. ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting - Still a lot of uncertainty surrounding the data from these units
- c. South Lynden source tracking project report – a final report will be presented to @ future SLWID meeting – The State is supporting further work on DNA by WCD and Exact Scientific which builds on the work begun in South Lynden.
- d. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – There was good quality in Portage Bay in April. DOH is conducting an enhanced monitoring program in April/May hoping to demonstrate that the spring closures (April – June) might be lifted. Membership on the Shellfish Boards is a concern as these boards have several openings and fewer farmers participating. The Board will suggest potential candidates. Cornie Timmermans was suggested for Drayton.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

July 17 and August 21 likely cancelled
September 18

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____