

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 21, 2017 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Rod Tjoelker Scott James Marty Maberry
 Jeff Bedlington Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink _____ Dale Buys _____ Chuck Lindsay
 Dan Eisses _____ Steve Jilk Mike Murphy
_____ Jim Bucknell _____ Aneka Sweeney David Haggith

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of January 17 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1				
2017 Assessments Received		\$0.00		
Fund Balance 1/1/2017		\$34,107.49		
Fund Balance 2/1/2017		\$34,107.49		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$34,107.49
Outstanding bills:				\$3,318.67
Ag Water Board		<i>Feb AWB Adm., sponsorships</i>	\$2,702.67	
N3		<i>water quality monitoring</i>	\$616.00	
End of Month Balance				\$30,788.82
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	30,032	5,005.34	25,026.66	
Projects	10,587	816.00	9,771.00	
Insurance/Adm	3,691		3,691.00	
	44,310	5,821.34	38,488.66	

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

II. Old Business

A. Ag Water Board report

- Legal - Lummi Settlement Negotiations – “Partnership” remains an elusive goal but the Portage Bay Partnership is moving down the road in the right direction. The two lead farms have been identified. Agreement on the technical experts has been more difficult. The tribe has agreed with Nicole but the Lummi selection is still being debated. They are working on a Scope of Work for the experts that will be advanced by both the Tribe and the farmers.
- Marty raised the need to have the AWB prepare and distribute factual information that both builds our legal case and also counteracts unbalanced information in the media. Chuck and Dan could help generate some of these papers. Marty and Greg will get a clear proposal and the Drayton WID will submit it the AWB as a potential legal expense. Mike offered to help build the water supply partnership on these fact sheets with the PUD and the Port of Bellingham. Ideas that need exploration included: the actual percentage of water withdrawn from the River, how the in-stream flow rule truly functions, and what is the actual impact of single resident household water use.

- Greg reported he had heard from Lummi that the federal representatives in DC were anxious to help the Portage Bay Partnership wherever they could. It was encouraging to hear such support.

B. Comprehensive Plan development

- Programmatic Drainage Permits - WCD assistance may be possible. The development of a 5-year Programmatic Permit leads into the need for a larger WID Comp Plan.
- All WID meeting to discuss Comprehensive Plans and strategies is planned for March 21st. Fred has gained approval from the Conservation Commission to get help from facilitator Rey Ledgerwood to advance WID plans and actions. He is available on March 21st and other WIDs have suggested an all WID meeting where Comprehensive Plans, Strategies, and Action Items are both jointly discussed and then broken into each WID discussions. Plans are being made to cancel March WID meetings and to focus on this agenda for March 21st.

IV. New Business

A. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Culvert replacements - <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/fishpassage/> - Henry displayed the WDFW Culvert inventory and noted this is an option for mitigation.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results were generally good with only a few spikes.
- ZAP unit locations, installation, O & M, reporting – calibration has proven to be more difficult than planned. The high numbers in the fall were not generally correlated with lab tests.
- Exact Scientific – source tracking technology is purchased but little movement on testing local e coli sources.

C. Water Quantity

- Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project – the first well was not a productive as hoped but the second well has exceeded expectations in volume and quality. Another well is being drilled shortly.
- Regional Source Feasibility Study – BBWSD has a Scope of Work developed to work on the portion of the DOE grant that is to explore means to distribute deep aquifer water including water banks. Henry asked Dan about including California Creek in this study. Dan felt that area would be added to a later effort.
- Legislation in Olympia – Bill provided a list of water bills with some highlights on bills that are making progress in the system. HB 1885 seems to be the preferred option for our famers as it fixes both *Hirst* and *Foster* and has bipartisan involvement.
- Water Supply Strategy draft is being worked on by the AWB Water Supply committee.
- Whatcom Water Supply Work Group – meets the third Thursday of each month. More water work is coalescing in this partnership which includes the cities, the County, PUD, AWB, Water Districts, and Water Associations. Birch Bay's Deep Aquifer project reports there as does the Drought Response Taskforce, and increasingly the Lummi Infrastructure project.
- The last meeting of the Water Supply Work Group featured a helpful discussion of the limits and use of the groundwater model. Dan suggested that we ask the County to include a +/-10 page paper explaining what the model will do, how it is to be used, and where the models have worked elsewhere. Perhaps this could be included in the Project Scope. Henry suggested that since Ecology is the entity that needs to be convinced of the model's accuracy we should ask them to answer these questions and potentially create a rule for how groundwater models are to be used.

- Water Bank grant application – The AWB is submitting an initial application for helping to develop Water Banks to the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program administered by WSDA. The project follows initial work of this nature done by the Snoqualmie WID and helps develop the mechanisms to move water both seasonally and permanently between farmers and other water suppliers.

D. Education

- The Feb 16th WCD workshop was well attended. Scott represented the DWID.
- A reminder of the WSU Water Workshop – February 22
- Website www.draytonwid.com

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

March 21

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Family Farmers

Approved by _____