

# Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – March 19, 2024

## Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

| <b>Board – Present</b>   | <b>Board – Absent with Notice</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Rod Tjoelker ( <i>chair</i> )<br>Jeb Miller<br>Marty Maberry (t)<br>Greg Ebe | Scott James                       |

| <b>Staff and Consultants</b> |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                  | <b>Organization / Affiliation</b> |
| Gavin Willis                 | Ag Water Board                    |
| Trevor Gearhart              | Whatcom Conservation District     |
| Fred Likkel                  | Whatcom Family Farmers            |
| Jay Chennault                | AESI                              |

| <b>Other Guests</b> |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>         | <b>Organization / Affiliation</b> |
| <i>none</i>         |                                   |

## Proceedings

Rod called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. January 16 minutes were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports and voucher in the amount of \$12,389.25 were reviewed.
- d. Greg moved to approve the consent agenda. Jeb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Administration

- a. Marty not present to sign oath of office - will sign at next meeting.
- b. Greg moved to approve Resolution 2024-02 – Appointment of Agent to Receive Claims for Damages. Jeb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an update on ECY's draft filing form and instructions. 26 comment letters were received. ECY has passed the draft filing form and comment letters on to the AG office to create the next draft of the form.
- b. Jay gave an update on the recent ECY water resources advisory committee meeting.
  - i. Sheila Coughlan had given an update on outreach. Estimate that 30,000 people will be pulled into the adjudication. They have a 4-person team doing outreach, have fielded 31 phone calls and 34 emails, plus 1635 clicks on draft forms. They will be hiring staff to give adjudication support out of ECY field office. Whatcom County has hired Aspect Consulting to provide support as well.

- ii. Board members noted that outreach was insufficient.
- c. Gavin provided an update on comp plan comments.
  - i. Board noted that operating loans for farms rely on land values, and rezoning can have a negative impact on those values.

#### **4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood**

- a. Fred provided a FLIP update. There is concern that some farms are in harms way, and the county doesn't seem to be taking imminent action. May need to do outreach to those farms to let them know that they need to protect themselves.
- b. Ditch maintenance was mentioned – no areas of concern to note.
- c. Jay provided an update on the augmentation project. ECY asked for an impacts analysis last year, which we provided. Now they are asking for a biological opinion to support the “no net detrimental impact” position that the impact analysis states. Jay will investigate some options for getting that letter.
- d. Other item of note from the Foster Pilot Program is that ECY has determined that water rights held by individual farmers are ineligible for processing for SW-GW conversions under the AWB as a Foster Pilot under their interpretation of the legislation.

#### **5. Water Quality**

- a. Trevor provided a WQ update. Some intermittent high counts in the harbor. Storm sampling revealed a small spike, but nothing of concern. A few hot spots likely related to septic. Does not appear to be any contributions from ag, which is good.
- b. Gavin provided an update on Shellfish Protection District work plan meeting. Biggest areas of concern were nearshore septic fields and leaks/disposal from septic tanks on boats in the marina.

#### **6. Education / Communications**

- a. Fred noted that March 27<sup>th</sup> will be the next WFF water rights education event at the Farm Pavilion at NWWF. Event will be from 6:30-8:30 pm.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:11 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by  \_\_\_\_\_