

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: October 20, 2015 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 Ed Pomeroy
 _____ Gary Stoyka _____ Steve Jilk _____ Kasey Cykler
 _____ Mary Dumas _____ Joanne Greenberg _____ Fred Likkel
 _____ Jim Bucknell _____ Aneka Sweeney David Haggith

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

VP Jeff called the meeting to order at 3:03.

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of September 15 Minutes
- B. Financial Report –

	<u>Original Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1	\$0.00			\$0.00
Grant #2	\$0.00			\$0.00
Fund Balance @ 10/1/2015		\$4,300.05		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$4,300.05
Outstanding bills:				\$0.00
End of Month Balance				\$4,300.05

	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>Expended to</u>	<u>Balance</u>
		<u>Date</u>	
Insurance	2,600	4,622.00	-2,022.00
AWB	11,604	6,120.00	5,484.00
Projects	11,106	347.95	10,758.05
Administration	4,250	840.00	3,410.00
	29,560	11,929.95	17,630.05

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

II. Old Business

A. Administrative

- Insurance quotes – Henry reported that Bill Knutzen was checking on policies that might be able to lower our premium costs.

DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE – all Watershed Improvement Districts

Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – three positions in Bertrand, one in Drayton, one in Laurel, two in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o'clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.

2) *Inspect the 2016 Assessment Role and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in the Bertrand will be heard at 2pm, December 1st, for Drayton at 3pm, December 15th, for Laurel at 10am, December 14th, for North Lynden at 10am, December 15th, for South Lynden at 3pm, December 8th, and for Sumas at 1pm, December 8th, all at the District's office. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 26th to November 27th.*

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts' offices located at 1796 Front Street, Lynden.

Public Notice will be published in Lynden Tribune October 14, 21, 28

Greg moved to nominate Scott to a second term on the Board, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- 2016 Budget preparation – The draft budget was reviewed. The need for more funding for Legal Defense was noted. The board determined to insert a new line under the Project Budget for Legal Defense which may be added to the AWB budget in the future.
- Establish 2016 Assessment Rate – Rod moved to set the 2016 Assessment rate at \$6/acre, Scott seconded, Greg moved to amend the motion to include the additional funds under a Legal Defense line in the Project budget, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously. The budget for 2016 will be \$44,310. The original motion carried unanimously.

<u>OPERATIONS</u>	\$7,000
<u>AG WATER BOARD</u>	\$11,245
<u>PROJECTS</u>	
Ditch Maintenance	\$3,000
Legal Defense Fund	\$17,770
Water Quality Monitoring/Projects	\$3,000
TOTAL PROJECTS	<u><u>\$23,770</u></u>
<u>CONTINGENCY</u>	
approx. 5% of Budget	\$2,295
TOTAL BUDGET	<u><u>\$44,310</u></u>

- Establish 2016 Assessment Role – Greg moved to establish the Assessment Role consisting of the parcels from 2015, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

B. Ag Water Board report - The ag community had been working on the creation of Whatcom Family Farmers and their initial efforts to make the CAFO permit more workable and to respond to the Lummi's water settlement ideas. There is a strong push back against the Lummi's plan to sue several farmers over water quality violations. Ag has never before been so united.

III. New Business

A. Ditch and Dike Maintenance

- identify sites for maintenance by early 2016
- DID #7 Pomeroy – at this point the DID is simply spraying the ditches. Would like to be able to do more ditch maintenance.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results – David presented the most recent water quality data which was quite positive leading towards an anticipated opening of the Drayton Harbor shellfish beds. There are still a few high fresh water samples to keep an eye on. Most of the high counts are in non-ag areas.

C. Water Quantity

- Planning Unit – appears the County is not funding the effort in 2016.
- Out of Stream Users Group – PUD is organizing water users into a new group. We hope to have an initial meeting this fall.
- Drought Preparation application – Bill and Henry are waiting for a signal from Ecology on when and how to proceed with the application.
- Greg noted that he had success with several seasonal transfers this summer. Most were completed in a week. This was done under the emergency drought declaration.

D. Update of WID Comprehensive Plan

- Looking for sources of grant dollars to help develop this plan.

E. Education –

- Website www.draytonwid.com
- The Board asked Henry to draft a letter to parcel owners explaining the purpose of the assessment increase. Pointing to accomplishments and future needs is important to communicate. The board will review prior to sending out in November.

F. Other Items from Commissioners

- David reported that the Critical Area Ordinance rewrite did not seem to change much for agriculture. He expected the process to be complete by the end of the year.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting – November 17th

Rod moved to adjourn at 4:10, Scott seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____