

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 21, 2020 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Rod Tjoelker Scott James Marty Maberry
 Jeb Miller Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Fred Likkel Scarlett Graham
 Dan Eisses _____ Steve Jilk David Haggith
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 19 Minutes
- b. Financial Report – *see financial report*

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

II. Administrative

- a. Officer election - Greg moved to elect Rod as President and Scott as VP/Sect., Jeb seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Oath of office – Greg took the Oath at the start of a new 3-year term.
- c. Public Records designee – required by RCW 42.56 - Jeb moved to appoint Henry Bierlink as the Public Records designee, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Deep Aquifer project – draft management options to be presented to Ecology. Dan reviewed the options and the board discussed the likely next steps. It is hard to quantify a demand so the option of phasing a project is more attractive. But this points to the regulatory non-compliant option. Dan doesn't plan to apply for 6091 related funds this year as the PUD was successful last year in their application to provide the required offset in this basin. The PUD is having difficulty with their stream augmentation project in California Creek. WDFW has opposed using Nooksack water to augment California Creek.
- b. Nooksack in-stream flow Rule – it was noted that a Public Hearing on the new rule was held January 8th at 3pm at LMS. Bill drafted written testimony to be presented by AWB.
- c. Drainage Based Management pilot – Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton
 - First meeting 12/16 – data gathering primarily, some disappointment in the commitment of the Tribes to anything but the South Fork.
 - Summary and Next Steps due in mid-January
 - South Fork involvement – A meeting with the South Fork farmers is still being planned.
- d. AWB Grant from Ecology - \$150k for 2 years, contract is signed. R & E will provide most of the work in cooperation with AESI.
 - Develop Project Lists – surface to ground and augmentation potential sites
 - Implement 2 conversions, 1 augmentation project

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. FLIP project tour – Fred announced a February 3-4 tour of potential flood projects
- b. Meeting with Cramer Scientific – Fred is planning a meeting with the river related WIDs where the habitat survey prepared by Cramer Scientific could be better understood and discussed. He is hoping for late January.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David noted some isolated high counts. DNA would be helpful to provide some direction in these troubling areas that pop up from time to time. Jeb moved

to approve up to \$2000 for N3 to take samples that would help us better understand the sources of these lingering issues, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- b. DNA project – Fred has set up a meeting with Kent from Exact Scientific on the 23rd.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.draytonwid.com
- b. AWB Newsletter
- c. AgWeatherNet stations – Scarlett reported on funding the WCD has received to locate 7 new weather stations in the County to be linked into the WSU AgWeatherNet system. One station in the Drayton WID would be desirable. The board suggested some spots that Scarlett could follow-up on.
- d. WCD request to meet with WIDs in February - board is open to discussing but likely opposed to an acre based assessment.
- e. Special Purpose District proposed legislation – abuse of tax payer funds in a King County Drainage District is causing proposed legislation that would drastically change the structure of special purpose districts like the WIDs. Bill is monitoring. We will need to be involved in helping him make the case for defeating changes that diminish our effectiveness.

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Legal research – Marty suggested that the WIDs, and maybe more appropriately the AWB, spend some time and funds better preparing what legal arguments would best serve farmers should we be drug into a legal action (i.e. a strictly by-the-book adjudication). Understanding the history of water rights issues going back to at least the 1985 in-stream flow setting rule would be helpful for all farmers. Include the ‘Ecology Promise’ in 1991 to not enforce on those trying to legalize their historic water uses. Trace the history of what farmers have done to honor their response to that promise. Henry will discuss with Bill before the March AWB meeting.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

February 18

March 17

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____