

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – April 16, 2024

Attendees

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

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

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Trevor Gearhart	Whatcom Conservation District
Frank Corey	Whatcom Conservation District
Sarah Faubion (t)	AESI
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Dan Eisses	BBWSD
Mike Love	BBWSD
Chris Elder (t)	Whatcom County Public Works

Proceedings

Scott called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. March 19 minutes were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports and voucher in the amount of \$4,129.75 were reviewed.
- d. Greg moved to approve the consent agenda. Marty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Marty signed his oath of office and waiver of compensation.
- b. Board signed a reformatted copy of the previously-approved Res. 2024-02

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an adjudication update.
 - i. Gavin, Bill, and Jay are working with ECY on formatting the public records request for water rights information associated with each of the WID parcels.
 - ii. Whatcom County is planning to provide funding to the AWB for additional water rights office hours. Hope to offer initial office hours in May and June.
 - iii. ECY has indicated that they will be sending out other mailings before the summons service to notify people of the adjudication.

- b. Discussion around the Whatcom County groundwater model. Jay mentioned that Gil might be available to give a presentation at the next AWB meeting.
- c. Chris Elder shared a report about rezoning ag lands.
 - i. Currently approx. 28,000 acres hat meet ag land designation criteria but aren't zoned ag.
 - ii. What types of compensation could the county offer for lost development rights? Could be financial compensation and/or water supply solutions.
 - iii. Board member noted that they don't want to see unplanned development of ag lands, but there is significant uncertainty around the ability to farm, and water access is a big part of that.
 - iv. Dan noted that there is uncertainty about future ability to develop permit exempt wells as well.
 - v. Board member noted that ensuring water availability will be more effective at maintaining ag land than other tools such as purchase of development rights, rezoning, etc.
 - vi. Gavin will share Chris' report via email.

4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Frank noted that DWID programmatic permits expire in October. He will begin the process of applying for new ones.
- b. New buffer program was discussed. The letter and flier have both been put together and will be sent out later in the month.
- c. Jay provided an update on the augmentation project. He is currently pursuing a biological opinion supporting the no detrimental impact determination.

5. Water Quality

- a. Trevor provided a WQ update. Drayton has been sampled 5 times in the last month, and there have been no hits upstream of marine areas.

6. Education / Communications

- a. March 27th water rights info evening had nearly 400 attendees.

7. Other

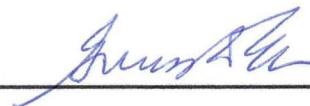
- a. Gavin provided OPMA training to Marty and Scott.

8. Next Meeting

- a. Next meetings are scheduled for May 21st and June 18th at 3:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:31 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by  _____