

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – October 17, 2023, 3 PM

Board Attending:

Rod Tjoelker Marty Maberry Greg Ebe
 Scott James Jeb Miller

Others Attending:

Gavin Willis _____ Henry Bierlink Fred Likkel
 Jay Chennault _____ Katie Faber _____ Alan Chapman
 Bill Clarke Sarah Faubion _____ Frank Corey
 Trevor Gearhart _____ Brandy Reed Dan Eisses

x – present o – absent with notice t – teleconference p – proxy

Scott James called the meeting to order at 3:00.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. September 19 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Marty moved to approve the consent agenda. Jeb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Terms of office are expiring for Marty and Jeb.
 - i. Jeb moved to renominate Marty. Marty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
 - ii. Marty moved to renominate Jeb. Jeb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Discussion of the budget, including AWB budget request.
 - i. Marty moved to approve the AWB budget request and set additional budget of \$4600 for operation expenses and \$5070 for projects. Jeb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Resolution 2023-01 – Setting the 2024 Assessment Rate
 - i. Jeb moved to approve Resolution 2023-01 setting the assessment rate at \$10.00 per acre. Marty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Resolution 2023-02 – Establishing the 2024 Assessment Roll
 - i. Assessment Roll was reviewed.
 - ii. Marty moved to approve Resolution 2023-02 and establish the assessment roll for 2024. Jeb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Adjudication update
 - i. ECY is still planning on an April 1 filing date.

- ii. Jay shared that in a meeting with Casey Cykler he was told that the water resources arm of ECY will continue to operate throughout the adjudication, so they should still be able to process change applications, administrative divisions, etc while the adjudication is proceeding.
 - iii. Bill noted upcoming proposed legislation for the court system – asking for an additional judge to deal with the workload caused by adjudication, as well as allowing court commissioners to handle some of the procedural decisions related to the adjudication.
- b. Gavin shared that AWB is looking at applying for the ECY streamflow restoration grant for surface-to-groundwater conversions. Board members noted that making progress in that area would be a good-faith effort to show desire for settlement for water rights issues.

4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance – board members noted that ditch mowing in DWID was done very well this year.
- b. CREP update
 - i. Fred shared that 800 acres have been cancelled, and another 300 are currently under review and will likely be cancelled as well.
 - ii. Bill noted that the Riparian Roundtable working group meetings are demonstrating that there will be a need for continued progress on buffer plantings.
- c. Jay shared an update on the augmentation project.
 - i. The impairment analysis has been completed. A mitigation plan has been developed and will be sent to ECY.

5. Water Quality

- a. Trevor provided an update on water quality
 - i. There are a few elevated counts that don't seem to be connected to any rainfall event, which suggests point source pollution.
 - ii. WCD is doing some studies to better understand how stagnant pools impact water quality.
- b. Trevor noted that tracking waterfowl presence (either by taking photos, or submitting info to the Whatcom Wildlife Tracker) can be useful evidence for determining cause of high counts.
 - i. WID can also use N3 for DNA testing.
 - ii. CD provides confidential WQ testing, but doesn't offer DNA testing

6. Education / Communications

- a. Website – draytonwid.com
 - i. Possible website update to simplify AWB staff workflow and ensure compliance with state requirements. Gavin will bring more info to the next meeting.
- b. WFF Farmer Rally is on November 8 at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds. They will be hosting an educational event from 2-4 pm before the rally about how farmers can prepare for the adjudication.

7. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None

8. Next Meetings

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov 21st at 3 PM.
- b. The November meeting will also serve as the board of equalization.

Scott James adjourned the meeting at 4:21 PM.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____