

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: September 15, 2015 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Rod Tjoelker Scott James Marty Maberry
 Jeff Bedlington Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Vince Buys Fred Likkel
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of June 16 Minutes
- B. Financial Report –

	<u>Original</u> <u>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 @ 9/1/2015		\$10,301.05		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$10,301.05
Outstanding bills:				\$6,001.00
Whatcom Farm Friends	<i>June - August</i>		\$360.00	
N3	<i>Water Quality testing</i>			
Whatcom Farm Friends	<i>Ag Water Board admin</i>			
N3	<i>Ag Water Board water quality</i>			
Clarke Law	<i>Ag Water Board legal</i>		\$3,000.00	
Enduris	<i>Insurance 9/15 - 9/16</i>		\$2,641.00	
End of Month Balance				\$4,300.05
	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>Expended to Date</u>		<u>Balance</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

Greg moved to approve the Consent agenda, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Administrative

- Consider annexation of additional acres – no areas seemed ripe for inclusion at this time.
- prepare for nominations for directors (Scott's term is up) and 2016 Budget preparation. Scott gave notice he is willing to be nominated to a second term.

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 must be published in Lynden Tribune October 14, 21, 28

B. Ag Water Board

i. Legal

- Legal Defense Agreement is in place. Bill Clarke has been providing memos for the Legal Defense team so that we have a better understanding of the potential legal positions for parties likely to be part of a settlement or court proceedings.

ii. Media Relations

- Herald columns – Gerald Baron has been working with the Media Relations Committee to craft columns that advocate for farmers concerns.

iii. Whatcom Family Farmers

- Organization of board – an initial meeting is to be held 3:30 Sept. 23rd.

III. New Business

A. Ditch and Dike Maintenance

- County herbicide policy – Henry alerted the Board to continued concerns at the County about road and ditch maintenance with Roundup.
- DID #7 (Pomeroy) - ask Scott to invite him to the October meeting to discuss areas of collaboration between the DID and the WID.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results were distributed. Ecology seems eager to provide more source testing which involves more than just fecal coliform testing.
- Fred noted that the draft of a CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operation) permit has a severe impact on dairies. This is a primary concern for dairies over the next months.

C. Water Quantity

- Planning Unit – it continues to flounder despite efforts to focus and direct its work. Henry sees it as providing a potentially valuable feedback and advisory role to the County on water issues but it is stuck in process and debates over its “authority” most of the time.
- Out of Stream Users Group – Lynden, the PUD, the AWB, and likely Bellingham are discussing a focused effort to better understand and advocate for out-of-stream water uses.
- Drought Preparation application – Bill and Henry have been drafting a proposal to be submitted to Ecology under the Drought Emergency Fund that would analyze significant water rights in each WID, match them as best as possible with existing water uses, and prepare a water brokerage or banking system that would facilitate permanent or seasonal transfers.
- The Lummi's are seeking an early October meeting to follow up on the discussion initiated at the June 3 meeting at Lummi.

- Vince noted that the idea of water storage was getting more attention in the area. We should be better informed about the potential of above ground storage costs and restrictions as well as recognizing that groundwater storage is part of the solution.

D. Update of WID Comprehensive Plan

- A overall scope of work has been prepared and some time and costs have been gathered. Henry is waiting for the best grant matches to apply to help complete this work.

E. Education–

- Website www.draytonwid.com

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting – October 20th

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____