

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 15, 2021 Meeting, 3 pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 810 3714 5039 Passcode: 991184

<u> x </u> Rod Tjoelker	<u> x </u> Scott James	<u> x </u> Marty Maberry
<u> x </u> Jeb Miller	<u> t </u> Greg Ebe	
<u> x </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> Dale Buys	<u> </u> Chuck Lindsay
<u> t </u> Dan Eisses	<u> t </u> Katie Faber	<u> x </u> Jay Chennault
<u> </u> Alan Chapman	<u> </u> Aneka Sweeney	<u> t </u> David Haggith

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Rod opened the meeting at 3:00.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of March 16 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
D0621	Ag Water Board	May, June AWB	\$6,302.50
D0621	Ag Water Board	July, August AWB	\$6,302.50
D0621	Exact Scientific	Avian DNA project	\$1,300.00
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$13,905.00

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. County led Collaboration
 - Legislature provided 2 years funding @ \$125k/yr
 - County Executive meeting with AWB Water Supply Committee – June 8th - was summarized. Satpal understands the concerns with an adjudication and shares our goal of illustrating a better path to a solution by the time the 2023 Legislature considers the filing and funding of an adjudication. Tribes remain non-committal to an alternative path. A Tribal meeting with Ecology this month may help them determine their approach to County led collaboration.
 - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report due in July. Will likely be retained as a neutral party able to provide back channel communications with Tribes and Ecology.
 - Conflicting letters from [ReSources](#) and [Family Farmers](#)
 - [Executive's response](#) – challenged ReSources desire to abandon collaboration and focus only on data collection.
 - Request for infrastructure projects – ARA providing \$45 million – Ideas generated by the board include the augmentation project, surface to ground conversions and using PUD and BBWS water to create a water bank and pipelines to deliver water.
- b. Watershed Management Board projects
 - Drainage Based Management - [outline](#)
 - Seeking expansion of outline AND key initial projects from each pilot
 - Regional Water Supply Plan – [data collection](#)
- c. Legal Preparation – AWB Legal committee and Bill Clarke are recommending some steps to prepare for an adjudication, should one actually be filed. We will set aside time at future AWB Board meetings for Executive Sessions as we prepare for litigation. We are planning to rotate Executive Sessions among future WID meetings as well to keep WID boards fully informed as well. Marty suggested at least every other or every third meeting. Bill is suggesting that all WIDs look at obtaining a water right in the next 18 months. This would help ensure the WIDs have the standing they will need to be part of an adjudication and potential solutions arising in an adjudication or alternative agreement. Henry asked the board members to be alert to any land conversions where a water right might be purchased. Suggestions

to pursue included using the augmentation right and some others. Finding a contractor to help us make this purchase and transfer was advised.

- d. BBWSD – water banking paper – Dan recounted the work to date on the deep aquifer. There are no apparent customers for the potable water found in the 2 successful deep wells so the BBWSD turned to examining ways to help ag. The paths outlined included supplying all ag needs from the BBWSD wells and the PUD via pipelines and a “non-compliant” strategy that uses wells to augment streams above minimum flows allowing current uses to be legalized. The first path was estimated at approximately \$56m, the second path at \$18m. Either path needs an allocation strategy which seems to point to a water bank or exchange. BBWSD had Chuck prepare a White Paper outlining how a water bank might allocate water made available from existing irrigation rights by means of increased irrigation efficiency, seasonal crop rotation and deficit irrigation methods. They have been waiting to see if there is enough interest to proceed towards seeking a water right on the deep wells that could deposit water into the water bank. Marty moved to ask the BBWSD to proceed with obtaining a water right that would include irrigation and steam augmentation as uses and to commit the DWID to partnering with the BBWSD and PUD to develop a framework for a NW County Water Bank, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously. Jay noted the State has just created a \$5m fund to advance water banking throughout the state. This program may be a source of support for this effort. The PUD is also interested in repurposing the augmentation grant they have on California Creek. This may be another opportunity to advance the NW County Water Bank.
- e. Dakota Augmentation project – grant extended to December, 2022 – Jay has the forms for applying for the needed water right ready for signatures.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. DID #7 update – Greg was aware that they had obtained the needed easements and developed the route as well as obtained most of the permits. The funding is still a concern. He did not know if the EDI application had been approved.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David reported that recent data was good. Some issues in California Creek but outside the WID.
- b. [DNA project – Avian project](#) - Avian project report has been received. It helps clarify some issues but more questions arise. There is some interest in pursuing more data to answer these questions. Fred expects to arrange a fall meeting where Exact can present the data to the sponsoring WIDs and discuss next steps. The board suggested that there was little need to identify every source. For our benefit, it is important to isolate if the source is human, wildlife, or cattle.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – a downgrade will occur in a portion of Drayton Harbor after last fall’s troubling numbers. This is not effecting the commercial harvesting beds at this time.

V. Education/Communications

- a. www.draytonwid.com
- b. Henry updated the board on changes at the Whatcom Conservation District. Frank Corey is filling the Interim Ex. Director role with George’s June 1 retirement. They seem to have narrowed the search down to three candidates. Alan was reelected to the WCD board and Fred Berman was appointed to the board to replace Larry Davis.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Rod adjourned the meeting at 4:05. The next meetings are:
September 21, October 19

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____