

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 18, 2020 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

<u> </u> t <u> </u>	Rod Tjoelker	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Scott James	<u> </u> t <u> </u>	Marty Maberry
<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Jeb Miller	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Greg Ebe		
<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Fred Likkel	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Chuck Lindsay
<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Dan Eisses	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	George Boggs	<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Rick Metzger
<u> </u> x <u> </u>	Alan Chapman		Aneka Sweeney		David Haggith
	<i>x = present</i>		<i>o = absent with notice</i>		<i>t = teleconference</i>

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of January 21 Minutes
- Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Ag Water Board	Jan, Feb. AWB	\$4,953.48
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 - Greg moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- Deep Aquifer project – Dan and Chuck updated the Board on the status of the “FINAL DRAFT TECHNICAL REPORT WATER SUPPLY STRATEGIES for the DRAYTON HARBOR SUBBASIN MANAGEMENT AREA”. The report has been submitted to Ecology for their review. Dan summarized the regulatory compliant and regulatory non-compliant strategies outlined in the report. Regulatory complaint is estimated at \$50 million and Non-Compliant at \$13 million. Both strategies face challenging cost and regulatory issues that point us towards finding agreements through the Drainage Based Management process that would remove regulatory barriers. Dan asked for more comments on the [report](#).
- Drainage Based Management pilot – Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton
 - First mtg 12/16 – data gathering, next steps are to develop a database of current data for each pilot, send an RFP to candidates to summarize that data for each pilot and suggest management solutions for the group to consider. The focus will be on water supply but there will be room for habitat and water quality discussions.
 - Linking this process to the Flood Management work under the FLIP process is a goal advanced by the AWB.
- AWB Grant from Ecology - \$150k for 2 years
 - Develop Project Lists – surface to ground and augmentation potential sites
 - Implement 2 conversions, 1 augmentation project
 - Project meeting with Reichhardt and Ebe and AESI - 13th – hoping to fund some of the projects already identified and find new projects that would advance the Drainage Based Management process.
- Adjudication meeting – Lummi joined Nooksack in sending a letter of request for a basin-wide general stream adjudication. This makes what we earlier sensed was a low likelihood more likely. Ecology’s point person to explore potential adjudication locations throughout the state met with the AWB February 12th. Opposition to an Adjudication remains the ag position. The AWB Board will review new information and discuss at their March 18th meeting.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- Meeting with Cramer Scientific – both Fred and Greg found this meeting very informative and suggested that we consider sponsoring more meetings of this nature to bring farmers up to speed on issues that are affecting them.

- b. Ditch maintenance – Rick updated the Board on drainage issues that DID #7 is wrestling with in the Grandview area.
- c. Culvert replacement – the Board reviewed the online WDFW culvert map located at <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/fishpassage/index.html> Board members were asked to Click on the yellow (partial barrier) or red (full barrier) triangles and a site specific report will pop up. Generating ideas for WID specific projects would be helpful as we prepare our 2020 Project budgets. The culvert at Fox Road is creating flooding and must be relooked at as a fish barrier.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred did not have new information but noted that numbers have come down after the high counts that occurred during flood events.
- b. DNA project – David took a sample from a location where h had hoped to submit the sample to Exact for DNA analysis. But the fecal counts were too low to justify taking this step.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.Draytonwid.com
- b. Whatcom Conservation District workplan
George Boggs presented for the Whatcom Conservation District. Their Board is in the middle of a 5-year workplan (2017-2022) but desired a community discussion to “proof up” their assumptions and make needed adjustments to the Plan. The WCD is preparing a survey of its constituents and asked if the WID would help gather responses. George altered the Board to the WCD’s desire to establish a base of funding so they would not be as reliant on grant funding. The proposal of \$5/parcel countywide would generate nearly \$500k annually to be used to firm up priority programs that don’t get grant funding and provide matching funds for grant funded programs. This funding plan would generate \$18k from land in the WIDs, \$30k from non-WID parcels in the ag area, and approximately \$450k from urban and rural residential areas. Plans are to present this idea to stakeholders, hold a Public Hearing before the WCD Board in June, and present this request to the County Council in July.
Other WIDs have expressed concern over the loss of a CD Engineer who has been crucial in preparing and managing EQIP contracts. Fred reported the LWID has asked the AWB board to explore the idea of contracting with the WCD for an Ag Engineer. This would look at options of having the WIDs fund this position or a portion of the position rather than supporting the \$5/parcel proposal. This will be discussed at the March 18th AWB meeting.
- c. Special Purpose District legislation update – Henry noted that Bill reported the bills that would change the election process for irrigation districts was dead for this session.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

March 17

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____