

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: September 21, 2021 Meeting, 3 pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 810 4327 8102 Passcode: 143853

<u> </u> x <u> </u> Rod Tjoelker	<u> </u> o <u> </u> Scott James	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Marty Maberry
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Jeb Miller	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Greg Ebe	
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Bill Clarke	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Jay Chennault
<u> </u> t <u> </u> Dan Eisses	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Fred Likkel	<u> </u> Kasey Cykler
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Rod opened the meeting at 3:04.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of June 15 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>
D0921	Ag Water Board	September, October AWB	\$6,302.58
D0921	Enduris	self insurance	\$2,952.00
		TOTAL VOUCHER	\$9,254.58

Marty moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Jeb seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. AWB Water Supply issues - Bill
 - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report indicates parties are not “ripe”, suggests a “solutions table”
 - Adjudication – seems hard to stop, exploring ways to mitigate the damage
 - Legal preparation
 1. Executive sessions for WID Boards – pending litigation – at Oct mtg.
 2. Working with private attorneys to find the most effective structure to help all farmers with water right concerns.
 3. Standing in adjudication – have WIDs seek interest in a water right
- b. AESI contract – Jay
 - Water right list – AESI has prepared a list of water rights in the Drayton WID and is working on merging this list with the current parcel layer so that the Board will be able to see the current owner of the water right. There are 138 groundwater rights and 24 surface rights. Goal is to ensure that all rights are in use and fully prepared for adjudication. We will examine the rights where use is not as clear or use is minimal as potential candidates for acquisition, transfers, leases, etc. Reconciling the Ecology database and County Parcel layer is a current challenge AESI is working through. Marty wondered if rights place in the State water trust could be protected in an adjudication. Bill thought not as it would be examined in case it was taken out of the Trust. leased to the WID so that the WID could defend them. This is another potential way the WID could help its landowners and defend ag water rights.
 - Request for infrastructure projects – \$20m targeted to infrastructure in Whatcom, other federal funds are flowing through grant programs like those under the Bureau of Reclamation. AESI prepared a spreadsheet describing the ideas for projects that have been considered in the past 30 years. The board was asked to review them and add new ideas that might be advanced. A rough budget was applied for each project.
- c. AWB Budgeting – the initial 2022 AWB budget will be drafted next week for the WIDs to consider in October. Investing into the legal work needed to protect all ag water rights is needed but not yet fully understood. Getting an idea of what may be an acceptable range for the AWB legal work was discussed.

- d. BBWSD
 - water banking paper drafted
 - request to obtain a water right on the deep aquifer wells being drafted upon the encouragement of the DWID.
- e. Dakota Augmentation project – grant extended to December, 2022 – needed paperwork for project has been filed.
- f. [North County Water Group formation](#)
 - Entities invited are BBWSD, PUD, Lynden, BWID, DWID, NLWID.
 - Led by BBWSD with goals to
 1. Make water and land policy consistent
 2. Assist federal adjudication team

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. DID #7 update – still awaiting support through the EDI program

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – PIC program focusing on three subareas in the Drayton watershed. 1 is within the DWID.
- b. DNA project – Avian project – Kent presented the results at the South Lynden WID Tuesday. Fred reported that there is a sense that we are making progress on isolating sources.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – additional closures have happened. Citizen involvement is increasing which is helpful.

V. Education/Communications

- a. www.draytonwid.com
- b. Weather stations – a new station on Haynie Road was in operation.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21. Next meeting is October 19.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____