

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: November 15, 2016 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

 t Rod Tjoelker x Scott James x Marty Maberry
 x Jeff Bedlington o Greg Ebe

 x Henry Bierlink x Dan Eisses x David Haggith
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Marty called the Hearing to order at 3:06. With no one present to challenge the assessment roll Scott moved to adjourn the hearing, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of October 18 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

| | <u>Amount</u> | <u>This Month</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Available</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Grant #1 | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| 2016 Assessments Received | | \$37,077.56 | | |
| Fund Balance @ 10/1/2016 | | \$23,908.52 | | |
| Fund Balance @ 11/1/2016 | | \$36,422.06 | | |
| Accounts Payable | | | | |
| Invoices Submitted for reimbursement | | | | |
| TOTAL Available | | | | \$36,422.06 |
| Outstanding bills: | | | | \$2,148.02 |
| Ag Water Board | <i>Excise and filing fees</i> | | \$98.82 | |
| Ag Water Board | <i>November AWB</i> | | \$2,049.20 | |
| End of Month Balance | | | | \$34,274.04 |

| | <u>2016 Budget</u> | <u>Expended</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| AWB | 26,012 | 16,724.36 | 9,287.64 |
| Projects | 12,000 | 848.82 | 11,151.18 |
| Adm/Insurance | 6,298 | 3,531.00 | 2,767.00 |
| | 38,012 | 21,104.18 | 23,205.82 |

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

II. Old Business

- A. Ag Water Board report
 - Legal
 - o Lummi Settlement Update (in Executive Session)
- B. Ground water Modeling - model review is taking place
 - The Final Draft Conceptual Model Report has been uploaded to the WRIA 1 project website and is available for review. Comments on the report are due December 1st. <http://wria1project.whatcomcounty.org/Resource-Library/2016-Draft-Phase-2-Data-Collection-And-Conceptual-/118.aspx>. The use of the model

to help identify a reasoned mitigation for the effect of ground water withdrawals on surface flows was discussed. Dan noted that it is possible that the Model would create more problems with the ability to demonstrate impacts. The Board suggested that some form of legislation would be needed to ensure the model could help solve issues rather than create more problems. Henry reported that the *Foster* case is now inhibiting action on the surface to ground water conversions. Fixing this and addressing the year-round closures should also be addressed in the Legislature.

IV. New Business

A. Administrative

- Board nominations – No additional nominees for the 3 year terms. Rod and Greg reelected.
- Jeff noted he had also been appointed to the North Lynden WID board and would rather not serve in two positions. He is willing to serve out the last year of his term but if another landowner was interested in being appointed he would consider resigning. Marty will talk to Dave Buys about his interest.

B. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Ditch maintenance - Fred noted that there had been little mowing work done in the County this summer and some farmers were concerned about it. The Bertrand Board would like Public Works to come to a future WID meeting and discuss the potential of working with the WIDs to maintain ditch mowing in a public/private partnership between the County and the WIDs. Fred will contact Jeff Gowan.
- Programmatic Drainage Permits - WCD Grant application in – hopefully know by the first of the year. This would help us develop a 5-year maintenance plan for mowing, spraying, and cleaning.

C. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results – David noted that Drayton Harbor would be opened to year-round shellfish harvesting next week. A party of some sort was suggested. David will suggest the idea to Gerald at WFF. David reported there were a few isolated areas of concern in the Drayton watershed but most of them were outside the WID.
- Exact Scientific – source tracking technology paper was distributed. They are seeking \$90k to make the equipment they purchased operational.

D. Water Quantity

- Deep aquifer project – Dan noted the initial well was completed and the second well was beginning. The first well hit bedrock at 420' with only 30' of screenable material. This is likely to provide 50-100 gpm. The saline level appears to be 250-300.
- North County Water Project – Dan is proposing a new grant application for another 3-4 deep wells. Jeff moved to provide BBWS with our support, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Whatcom Water Supply Coalition – has not been meeting the last months but has a meeting planned to mid-November. The County's plan to address the *Hirst* case will be a prominent agenda item for a while. Henry noted that the Legislature would have numerous proposals to consider to try to address the implications of this decision. Bill will be seeking opportunities to address irrigation and stockwater concerns in these bills. There is also a need to determine the difference between impact and impairment of groundwater withdrawals in closed basins.

E. Education

- WCD Speaker Series – Drayton program on February 16th

- WFF Farmer Rally being planned for November 15th. A guest speaker from the Klamath Basin will provide some thoughts.
- Booth for the AWB and WIDs at the Small Fruit Conference – Nov 30-Dec 1. Henry will obtain large maps of each WID. Fred will work with Gerald to get banners, etc. for the AWB booth. Fred will work on a poster better explaining the relationship between the AWB and Family Farmers.
- Website www.draytonwid.com

F. Other Items from Commissioners

- Marty noted that he and Greg had talked with the BIA about how ag could help with the issues surrounding the *Hirst* case. He observed that though we have mutual interests we also don't want to complicate the growing relationship with Lummi over water issues.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

December 20

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____