

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: October 19, 2021 Meeting, 3 pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 829 5230 6498 Passcode: 15556

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

Rod opened the meeting at 3:03.

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of September 21 Minutes
- Financial Report

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

II. Executive Session – Rod called the meeting into Executive Session at 3:04. Discussion with legal counsel on authority of WIDs and potential litigation – up to 30 minutes. (Board members only). Rod called the meeting back to order at 3:36.

III. Administrative

- Board nominations – Scott needs to be nominated. He is willing. Greg moved to nominate Scott, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- AWB Budget request – lower than 2021, encouragement for WIDs to budget for water right acquisition, project development, and legal reserve to address adjudication.
- 2022 Workplan & Budget
 - Resolution 2021-1 – Setting the 2022 Assessment Rate and Budget
 - Resolution 2020-2 – Adopting the 2022 Assessment Roll
 - November 16th Board of Equalization

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 – two positions in Bertrand, one in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, one in South Lynden, and one 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 2022 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in Laurel will be heard at 10am, November 8th; for Bertrand at 2pm, November 8th; for Sumas at 1pm, November 9th; for South Lynden at 3pm, November 9th; for North Lynden at 9am, November 16th; and for Drayton at 3pm, November 16th, all at the District's office or via Zoom. Contact the WID administrator for access to the meeting@ info@agwaterboard.com. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 12th to November 5th.

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts' offices located at 204 Hawley Street, Lynden.

Public Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 13, 20, 27

The Board stressed the need to show value to farmers for the assessments collected. Any increase should be justified by additional services provided. The large increase planned for our project budget has been targeted for items such as legal research on flow claims, acquiring water rights for the WID, and providing technical information for support of water rights claims. A letter to all WID parcel owners should make the purpose of the increase clear. It should explain what we have done and what the increase will allow us to do.

Greg moved to set the rate at \$10/acre, Jeb seconded, motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate
 - Summary of legal status, direction
 - Solutions Table – County leadership
 - October 21st Watershed Mgt Board mtg
 - Solutions Table discussion with Jay and Maia
 - Project proposals from Tribes, PUD, Land Trust, and AWB
- b. Project List – add, edit, prioritize – focus on surface to ground conversions – Jay provided a list of surface water rights tied to current ownership. The board was challenged to review this list with consideration of the size of the right (likely over .5 cfs to significant enough) and complexity of making the transfer (fewer unrelated owners). Both Greg and Marty have some candidates to examine.
- c. Water Rights list – develop strategy to obtain rights – Jay provided a complete list of rights tied to current ownership. The board is challenged to locate rights that may be underused or in danger of relinquishment.
- d. Dakota Augmentation project – Andy Dunn at RH2 will provide the cost-reimbursement review of the water right application for the project.
- e. North County Water Supply formation – a draft agreement is being circulated. We expect a final version to be considered at the November meeting.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results - Fred did not have updated information as the County's interactive website has been down.
- b. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred noted the partial closure and was optimistic the newer numbers would lead to a reopening next year.
- c. Report on landowner contacts – David is working with a landowner to rectify issues.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.draytonwid.com
- b. Family Farmers Rally – November 17th

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Meeting was adjourned at 4:12. Next meeting is November 16.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____