

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 20, 2017 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

Rod Tjoelker Scott James Marty Maberry
 Jeff Bedlington Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Dan Eisses _____ Chuck Lindsay
 Meg Harris _____ Joanne Greenberg Fred Likkel
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

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

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1				
2017 Assessments Received		\$23,338.81		
Fund Balance 4/1/2017		\$25,544.81		
Fund Balance 6/1/2017		\$41,600.46		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$41,600.46
Outstanding bills:				\$5,789.34
Ag Water Board <i>May, June AWB</i>			\$5,005.34	
N3 <i>water quality monitoring</i>			\$784.00	
End of Month Balance				\$35,811.12
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	30,032	14,943.06	15,088.94	
Projects	10,587	3,144.00	7,443.00	
Insurance/Adm	3,691	200.00	3,491.00	
	44,310	18,287.06	26,022.94	

Rod moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- A. Review and approve Priority Issue and Activity lists

Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
1. Water Rights	Continue to work on deep water aquifer...move beyond just the exploration...to supply or mitigation of new water rights	
	Working with farmers on legal avenues to move water around...spreading, piping, water bank, transfers	
2. Water Quality	Continue to monitor water quality and find hot spots	
3. Comprehensive Plan	Public relations...family farmers to dispute misinformation	
4. Drainage	East side of WID has little fall. Drainage is more of an individual matter. West side has DID #7, Need to better connect with them. (Ed P.)	

- B. Comprehensive Plan – Sumas complete, South Lynden and Bertrand are in process. Greg moved to approve \$2,000 toward the completion of a draft Drayton Plan, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously. Heather McKay will be contracted to prepare a draft that the WID Board can review and discuss this fall.

III. Water Supply

- A. Olympia Report – the fate of ESSB 5239 (Hirst Fix) is still up in the air. The AWB has been working with Bill and other local partners to have some suggested budget language to be inserted to final budget negotiations should the opportunity present itself. Bill is floating this idea with other groups including the Lummis.

- i. Whatcom Water Action Pilot Program proposal - 2 years - \$150k/yr.

(X) \$300,000 is provided solely to establish the Whatcom Water Action Program (WWAP). With these funds, the department shall retain a qualified consultant to develop a multi-purpose water resource program capable of providing both technical and market analysis of existing water rights, changes of existing water rights, mitigated water rights, and development of new water infrastructure, including but not limited to storage, pipelines, aquifer recharge, and other projects. The program would be designed to meet water resource needs for both instream and out-of-stream needs, and be capable of supporting future water resource agreements. The program will analyze demands, design supply options, and create an exchange service where access to water will be methodical and transparent; including water uses for agriculture, rural residents, municipal supply, and instream flows. The department shall establish a steering committee for the program, which shall include major water resource stakeholders and federally-recognized tribes.

- B. Whatcom Water Supply work group – Henry provided a brief summary of projects this group was working on including:

- i. Lummi Infrastructure project
 - ii. Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project
 - iii. Ground water Modeling
 - iv. Drought Contingency Plan
 - v. Action Plan

- C. Water Exchange/Banking – A Pilot Program proposal to the AWB was reviewed. There were concerns about focusing on transfers. Larger water supply options seem to be a higher priority for the WIDs than getting into the “weeds” of individual transfers.

- D. Deep aquifer – Dan reported that the third well was partially completed to 358’ but the cable tool drilling was on hold. Ferndale is also digging a 1,000’ well near their public works facility. The BBWS request for additional wells is contingent on what Ecology will receive in the State budget. Dan noted that the Feasibility study of how to move water, once it is discovered, would have a draft report out in a month. It will explore Regional governance options.

IV. Water Quality

- A. Monitoring Results – Fred reported the numbers have been good. Meg noted that the CD is making focused efforts in water quality education in the Custer area. The focus is on small acre livestock farms. Letters explain the Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) program will be going out. Meg requested contact information and any opportunity that they could better connect with area residents.

- B. Exact Scientific – source tracking technology - A large scale DNA proposal has been prepared for consideration in the State budget. In the short-term, in order to demonstrate how this technology could be put to use Exact has crafted a proposal to do a pilot project in the South Lynden WID on the Scott Ditch reach between Strandell and Nolte Road. The projected budget for the work we are most interested in is \$18,900. South Lynden approved up to \$9,500 for this work. The BWID approved up to \$5k, the LWID another \$3k, and NLWID contributes \$500. Scott moved to approve \$500 to support this project since the information generated in this project would be applicable to our concerns as well, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

V. Education/Communications

- A. Website - www.draytonwid.com

- B. Water Symposiums – Henry distributed the agenda for Day 1 of the Sept 20-21 “Baker to Bay” symposium. Rich Appel has agreed to present the Ag perspectives on how we view

the Ecosystem. A second symposium specific to water supply is being planned for Nov. 1 or 2.

VI. Ag Water Board

- A. Spring newsletter is out.
- B. AESI instream flow report was presented to Water Supply Committee and will have more discussion at the AWB meeting.
- C. Portage Bay Partnership update (in Executive Session)

VII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

July 18 - likely to be cancelled
August 15 - likely to be cancelled
September 19

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____