

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 19, 2019 Meeting, 3pm – 5pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Rod Tjoelker Scott James Marty Maberry
 Jeb Miller Greg Ebe

Henry Bierlink Dale Buys Fred Likkel
 Dan Eisses Kevin Maddox Rick Metzger
 Alan Chapman Aneka Sweeney David Haggith
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 15 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

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

II. Administration

- a. Open Meetings Act training – all board members are required to have training in the Open Meetings Act every 4 years. Most of our board needs this training or updated training. There is a 1- hour training session sponsored by the County at 9am on the 28th in the Courthouse. There may be the opportunity to take the training at a future board meeting or on-line as well.
- b. Update Management Plan – the board began this process at the January meeting. Henry drafted revisions to the plan based on that discussion. The board agreed to make these updates and to continue to revise, as needed, throughout the year. Greg noted that the DNR has a grant program for upgrading problem culverts. Facilitating applications should be added to our action items.
- c. Annual Review – AWB and Whatcom Family Farmers – the board was generally pleased with the work done by these entities. The social media presence was appreciated. Some concern was expressed that the messaging was tilted away from conventional ag and more supportive of the small, organic types of farms.
- d. Potential candidates for future board positions - Henry distributed a list of farm owners who might potentially be approached as future board members. The idea of Associate Board members who receive the agendas and meeting information but don't have a vote was presented. Board members will review the list, make ownership updates, and suggest candidates to be brought on as associates.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project – Dan distributed the scope of work for the Water Supply Strategy element of the Ecology grant provided to BBWS. The scope points to developing an Interlocal Agreement including the DWID by spring and developing a technical report on current and future water needs through the remainder of 2019.
- b. Drainage Based Management – Henry reported that:
 - We expect Ecology funding – not yet approved but a solid chance
 - Puget Sound Partnership Near Term Action funding possible through the Water Supply Plan project.
 - One of the elements in the WRIA #1 5-year Action Plan which the Management Board is beginning to implement.
 - Meeting to set up where, when, and how DBM occurs
 - Likely beginning in Drayton, Bertrand

- Establish a Core Group that works together in each drainage – 2 WID, 2 County, 2 Tribe, PUD, WDFW, DOE.
- Fred and Henry are the likely WID representatives with WID Board members working closely with them when DBM is occurring within the respective WID.
- c. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - PU continuing to work on update to 2005 Plan
 - Management Board returning to implementing 5-year workplan
- d. Legislative update – Fred noted there were not many bills of concern introduced in the Legislature that affect ag. There was some discussion of a water right Adjudication in the Nooksack but that doesn't seem to be going anywhere. Labor issues were the most concerning as a bill to make farmers pay additional fees for H2A workers has been progressing.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- a. DID #7 – Rick and Kevin reported on their ongoing dialogue with WDFW and WSDOT over the mitigation plan for the Grandview/I-5 area. Restoration of habitat in the ditches along Willeys Lake Road was a poor plan as many of the streams classified as modified natural in this area are actually dug ditches. Getting Joel out there with some WID and DID board members is a goal.
- b. 5 – year permit – Frank submitted a draft plan. Greg moved to approve the plan but not submit it until we get clarification on the stream classifications, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

V. Water Quality

- a. Landowner letter – a letter alerting landowners to water quality concerns went out early this month. All the WIDs sent similar letters. Fred reviewed a presentation from WSDA where practices of concern were quite obviously present.
- b. Monitoring Results – Fred reported on the latest data. Numbers were generally good.
- c. DNA source tracking project report – CD still looking for sampling sites, wildlife
- d. Ecology Nitrate monitoring project – Fred – selected portions of an Ecology presentation was reviewed. Ecology is hoping for WID cooperation on locating several wells along the border that they could monitor for several years.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.draytonwid.com

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

March 19

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____