

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 21, 2023, 3 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83212392091>

<u> x </u> Rod Tjoelker	<u> x </u> Scott James	<u> t </u> Marty Maberry
<u> x </u> Jeb Miller	<u> o </u> Greg Ebe	
<u> x </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> x </u> Gavin Willis	<u> t </u> Jay Chennault
<u> x </u> Dan Eisses	<u> </u> Katie Faber	<u> </u> Dale Buys
<u> </u> Alan Chapman	<u> x </u> Fred Likkel	<u> </u> David Haggith

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Rod opened the meeting at 3:00.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of February 21 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
D0323	AWB	March - August AWB	\$24,937.44
D0323	AWB	AWB/WID Loan Program	\$40,000.00
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$64,937.44

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Ecology adjudication budget request and proposed legislation – HB 1792 - Henry updated the board on the legislature’s progress on the adjudication funding and filing request. HB 1792 has passed out of the House on a 97-0 vote and is in the Senate.
- b. Budget proviso – tech data and adjudication assistance – will be determined near the end of the session in April.
- c. [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted scheduled for April 26th
- d. Augmentation project – Jay noted he had a meeting with WDFW next week which would hopefully provide Ecology with the information they need to process the permit.
- e. North County Interlocal – Dan explained that the PUD was nearly ready to join the Interlocal Agreement which would complete the group proposed. This would kick off a meeting to advance the agenda in the Agreement.
- f. County Comprehensive Plan – The County needs to update their Comprehensive Plan by 2025. The North County Interlocal parties and the Planning Unit are pushing the need to address water supply as part of the land use plan. Zoning Land to protect an ag base is an empty action if the water supply to farm productively is not advanced.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance – Fred will meet with the County soon to suggest road ditch issues.
- b. Buffers:
 - Frank updated the board on the status of buffers in Olympia. There seems to be a wave of funding coming but little agreement on what standards will need to be met.
 - WCD worksession – Frank displayed a [map showing buffer areas](#) and included a [buffer list](#) for all the WIDs. Drayton has nearly 100 miles of stream bank with fish and is roughly 40% in the green, 22% in yellow, and 37% in the red category.
 - Discussion about incentive payments to landowners for buffers. Annual rentals are one option, purchasing a conservation easement is another. Funding is available via State Conservation Commission, CREP, and NRCS; best funding source may vary depending on details specific to each project. There is also potential in the future for

continuing income related to ecological benefits from buffers. The WID may be a more responsive entity when it comes to that than the county, land trusts, etc.

- Discussion about buffer width and management. Recognition that 200'+ buffers are not acceptable, but that 10' buffers will probably not meet requirements. Data shows that 35'-50' buffers provide 80-90% of the benefit of SPTH buffers. Also a need to be able to manage the drainage (including mitigating impacts from beavers and sediment buildup, and removal of invasive species).
 - Discussion about Frank's proposed letter to landowners in the WID. Letter generally looks good, although may need info about buffer size and landowner incentives. Was determined best to send letter to landowners in areas where buffers can have the greatest impact, likely soon after the session. Frank will come to the next meeting with a list of key landowners, and the WID can send out the letter once we have more information about available funding sources.
 - The timing of encouraging this work was discussed. It makes little sense to voluntarily work on promoting better habitat when the State is doing what they can to make farms disappear (adjudication, labor, etc.). We want to help promote habitat but also recognize that doing so is leverage in settlement efforts on water management.
- c. Beaver trapping – Gavin noted that the USDA beaver trapper is very effective now and some WIDs and Drainage Districts are contracting with them with a “not to exceed budget” annually.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Fred reported the numbers have been good.
- b. DNA testing – David has authority to submit samples for DNA testing when avian influence is strongly suspected. Human DNA has not been well developed and we are hoping the County will help develop tests for this.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred noted there were some old high samples that would be revolving off the report by fall which should help keep the shellfish beds approved.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.draytonwid.com

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Rod adjourned the meeting at 4:16. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18 but attention to the field work weather may require cancellation. The goal is to have at least 1 more spring meeting before the July, August break.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____