

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: October 18, 2022 Meeting, 3pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86928318016?pwd=aDIyVnZMYmV5cFh3ZHA2YWljbElhUT09>

Meeting ID: 869 2831 8016 Passcode: 713074

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Tjoelker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeb Miller	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault
<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Eisses	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cynthia May
<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith

x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

Rod opened the meeting at 3:01.

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of September 20, 2022 minutes
- Financial Report

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

II. Administrative

- Board nominations – Rod and Greg have terms ending. Marty nominated both Rod and Greg for another term, Jeb seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- [AWB Budget request](#) – Board reviewed the request which included added legal costs and encouragement for WIDs to budget for water right acquisition. This will mean a \$49,875 budget for the DWID.
- 2023 Workplan & Budget
 - Resolution 2022-1 – Setting the 2023 Assessment Rate and Budget
 - Scott moved to adopt Resolution 2022-1, keep the acre assessment at \$10, and the total budget at \$73,560, Jeb seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - Resolution 2022-2 – Adopting the 2023 Assessment Roll
 - Marty moved to adopt Resolution 2022-2, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - November 14th Board of Equalization will be held to begin the meeting.

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 – one position in Bertrand, two in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two 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 2023 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 14th; for Bertrand at 2pm, November 14th; for Sumas at 1pm, November 8th; for South Lynden at 3pm, November 8th; for North Lynden at 9am, November 15th; and for Drayton at 3pm, November 15th, 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 18th to November 8th.

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 19, 26, and November 2

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
 - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement idea being vetted
 - Ecology floating “Solutions Showcase” – learning from the [Yakima example](#). We should submit questions and connect with the Yakima farmers involved prior to the October 27th WMB meeting.
 - Ecology budget request – Bill noted they asked the Legislature for \$2.75 million for the next biennium. In addition Whatcom Superior Court requested 1.9m, and the AG Office another \$580k. This totals \$5.23m for the biennium. We are drafting a response that would point the Legislature towards more effective and efficient means of addressing the numerous water issues.
 - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table
 1. Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application denied. Will be debriefing with Ecology soon to understand why.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
 - AWB to establish – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – in process
 - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – will be sent once the Exchange is set up.
 - Follow-up with key acquisition candidates
- c. Dakota Creek augmentation project update – still on course for fall, 2023.
- d. Birch Bay deep aquifer – Dan reported that BBWSD had generated a request for water rights on the deep aquifers. Part of this review will be one of the initial uses of the new groundwater model. Dan was surprised at the cost involved in running that model and warned we best incorporate those costs into future water right applications.
- e. North County Interlocal – Dan reported the cities are considering involvement along with BBWSD and the WIDs.
- f. South Fork Adjudication presentation – Fred note that Robin MP was making a presentation to the South Fork landowners Thursday evening. It seems to be a private event.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Flood update – Fred noted some progress on implementing flood solutions. He also alerted the board to the likelihood of an increase in the Flood Tax in light of all the needs following the 2021 flood.
- b. WCD Update – [parcel fee proposed](#) - County Council public hearing on Oct 25th. – Alan reviewed the purpose of the proposal which is to provide a funding base for the WCD which is currently nearly solely reliant on grant funding. A letter of support from the WIDs and AWB would be appreciated. The board noted they appreciated the funding package which is based on parcels rather than acres. The net result is ag would be providing approximately \$30k of the \$590k revenue. The services provided by the WCD were also appreciated but the loss of an ag engineer to help with EQIP contracts was sorely missed.
- c. Buffer requirement – Fred suggested we include discussion of the politics of requiring buffers at all WID meetings for the upcoming months as the issue is generating several legislative proposals for the upcoming 2023 session.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Cynthia distributed a short survey for the CD on how farmers want to receive water quality data. The recent results were reviewed which were generally quite good.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.draytonwid.com
- b. Legislative Tour - November – Henry explained that once we have a clear ask of the Legislature as they consider the funding of the adjudication Bill will help to bring some key legislators to Whatcom and we will show them sites to illustrate our request.

- c. Comcast request update – Comcast is still deciding on what organization to ask to sponsor their grant application.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Rod adjourned the meeting at 4:09. Next meeting is November 15

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____