

Drayton Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 15, 2024

Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Marty Maberry Jeb Miller Rod Tjoelker (t) Greg Ebe	Scott James

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Jessica Peila (t)	AESI
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers
Jay Chennault	AESI
Trevor Gearhart	Whatcom Conservation District

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Rick Metzger	DID #7
Dave Buys (t)	
Dan Eisses	BBWSD
Alan Chapman (t)	Whatcom Conservation District

Proceedings

Rod called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from September 17 meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial report was reviewed.
- d. Voucher D-Gen-0924 in the amount of \$5,129.75 was reviewed.
- e. Marty moved to approve the consent agenda. Jeb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Expiring term of Scott was discussed. Gavin noted that he had spoken to Scott, who indicated that he was willing to serve another term.
 - i. Marty moved to nominate Scott for another term. Jeb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. AWB budget request and a draft 2025 budget for the WID was reviewed and discussed.
 - i. Greg moved to approve Resolution 2024-03, adopting the budget and setting the assessment rate at \$11.00. Jeb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. The assessment rolls were reviewed. The WID did not annex or remove any territory this year.

- i. Jeb moved to approve Resolution 2024-04, adopting the 2025 assessment roll. Greg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Notice will be published in the Lynden Tribune about nominations for the board, and that the next board meeting will also serve as the Board of Equalization.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an adjudication update.
 - i. ECY's proposed claims form was not approved at the September 26th hearing, as the judge had a number of corrections that needed to be made, mostly related to administrative details. Also noted that the court will likely not be ready for e-service when the summons goes out.
 - ii. Bill has drafted language for legislation that would create a claims opening period for the Nooksack Basin at the start of the adjudication. Similar legislation was passed at the start of the Yakima adjudication, and at that time was supported by ECY. If adopted, it would allow farmers with pre-code water use to file in the adjudication even if they or previous property owners never filed a claims form during a previous claims opening.
- b. More water rights office hours are available on October 24 and December 6. Signup is on the Ag Water Board website.
- c. Fred noted that WFF is hosting a water rights info evening on October 22nd at 6:30pm at the fairgrounds.

4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance was discussed.
 - i. Fred noted that due to budget constraints county staff are on an hours restriction. A board member noted that there was some ditch mowing that was completed in the district.
 - ii. Rick noted that DID #7 has completed their culvert replacement and ditch cleanout project near Atwood Road. He indicated that the DID may be interested in coordinating future projects with the WID.
- b. Jay provided an update on the augmentation project.
 - i. The water right application is in cost reimbursement processing. WDFW has submitted a letter indicating that they support the project as long as it isn't used for mitigation for out-of-stream purposes. Nooksack and Lummi are both interested in the project – they haven't submitted any letters of support, but at this point don't appear likely to object to the water right application.
 - ii. Gavin noted that ECY will be amending the grant to apply a 2-year extension to complete the project.

5. Water Quality

- a. Trevor provided a WQ update. The same hotspots that have been present the last few months continue to persist, but aren't ag related (and don't seem to be rain related either). The WCWP will be doing some DNA testing on the freshwater areas of concern to try and narrow down some potential sources.

6. Education / Communications

- a. Fred noted that WFF will be hosting their annual Farmer Rally on November 20th at the fairgrounds.

7. Other Items

- a. Impacts of the adjudication on different classes of water users was discussed. Dan noted that Whatcom County is working on an update to the coordinated water system plan to provide support to water districts and associations. The associations may face issues in an adjudication, and many have not planned sufficiently for rural growth. A board member noted that many

water associations provide water to farms, and in some instances may decline to continue to do so.

8. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19th. It will also serve as the Board of Equalization.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____