

# Ag Water Board

**Regular Meeting December 14, 2016, 1-3 pm**

Ag Water Board office, 1796 Front Street, Lynden

<u>AWB Board:</u>	__x__ Andy Enfield	__x__ Marty Maberry	__x__ Scott Bedlington
	__x__ Mike Boxx	__x__ Rod Vande Hoef	__x__ Roger Bajema
<u>Alternates:</u>	_____ Vern Vande Garde	_____ Terry Lenssen	__x__ Greg Ebe
	_____ Rich Appel	_____ Landon Van Dyk	_____ Rod Tjoelker
	_____ Jon Maberry	__o__ Brad Rader	_____ Keith Boon
	__o__ Jeff De Jong	_____ Rolf Haugen	_____ Larry Stap
	_____ Ed Blok		
<u>Others:</u>	__x__ Fred Likkel	__x__ Gerald Baron	__x__ Henry Bierlink
	__t__ Bill Clarke	__x__ Eric Hirst	__x__ Karlee Deatherage
	__x__ Cal Bratt	__x__ Mark Personius	

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

I. Review & Approve September 14 Minutes – Scott noted he had been incorrectly credited with seconding a motion in the minutes. Henry will correct. Marty moved to approved the corrected minutes, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Financial/Administrative

A. Financial Reports – Rod and Henry reviewed the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statement for the May 1- December 13<sup>th</sup> period. Roger moved approval of the reports, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.

B. 2017 Budget review

<u>WID</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Office/ Misc</u>	<u>Admin</u>	<u>Legal</u>	<u>Water Supply</u>	<u>Quality &amp; Drainage</u>	<u>Public Affairs</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bertrand	14,393	21.3%	\$5,321	\$10,642	\$15,963	\$10,642	\$7,982	\$7,982	58,531
North Lynden	5,915	8.7%	\$2,187	\$4,374	\$6,560	\$4,374	\$3,280	\$3,280	24,054
South Lynden	13,086	19.4%	\$4,838	\$9,676	\$14,514	\$9,676	\$7,257	\$7,257	53,216
Drayton	7,385	10.9%	\$2,730	\$5,460	\$8,191	\$5,460	\$4,095	\$4,095	30,032
Laurel	8,307	12.3%	\$3,071	\$6,142	\$9,213	\$6,142	\$4,607	\$4,607	33,782
Sumas	18,537	27.4%	\$6,853	\$13,706	\$20,559	\$13,706	\$10,280	\$10,280	75,384
			<b>25,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>275,000</b>
	<b>67,623.0</b>		9%	18%	27%	18%	14%	14%	100%

Henry reviewed the 2017 Budget and noted that all six WIDs had accepted it.

C. 2017 Contract with Bill Clarke – a draft was presented for 2017. A final decision will be made at the March meeting after further discussion of our legal needs.

D. 2017 Contract with Whatcom Family Farmers – a draft was presented for the April 2017 – March, 2018 period. A final decision will be made at the March meeting after further discussion of our water quality, drainage, and media relations needs. Gerald noted that Ann Appel and Jewell Ter Wisscha were taking on more responsibilities and he is stepped back somewhat to concentrate

more on the Save Family Farming organization. He provided a brief update of current actions at the State level.

### III. Communication/Education

- A. WFF Media Relations contract report – Gerald noted that a website update at WFF was in the works and that there would be improved linkages between the AWB and WID sites. The AWB and WID sites will be geared to housing organization information such as minutes, project reports, etc. WFF will be the outreach voice of all of ag including making the work of the WIDs more understood and placed into the context of how it helps to advance the interests of all Whatcom farmers. Other actions provided by WFF include formatting the WID newsletters, organizing educational events like the Farm Circle and Farm Tours, and participating in community events such as the Sustainable Connections’ farm tours and SEAFEAST.
- B. Reports from each WID:
  - i. Bertrand – Henry - noted the progress on the Augmentation project and the stop work on the surface to ground water conversions due to Ecology’s interpretation of the effects of the *Foster* case.
  - ii. North Lynden – Roger – reported on the ditch cleaning that had been accomplished on the Benson and Assink Road ditches and the positive effect cleaning has had on water quality numbers.
  - iii. South Lynden – Rod – noted that Kent Oostra had met with them about advancing the DNA source tracking tools at his lab.
  - iv. Drayton – Marty – reported on the deep aquifer project being led by Birch Bay Water and Sewer. Two wells have been dug with one indicating the approximate ridge between the Lynden area and Blaine area aquifers and the second hitting a productive well field between the first well and Blaine.
  - v. Laurel – Mike – Working with ReSources on monitoring about 18 water quality sites and connecting with landowners to address the concerns.
  - vi. Sumas – Andy – Planned a WID commissioner tour to see the water quality monitoring sites, the Sumas City augmentation site, and the Saar Creek catchment basin. Tour was cancelled due to weather.
- C. Water Position Statement & Strategy – The original purpose of this statement was as a response to encouragement from Executive Louws to clearly articulate the AWB water positions to Council. There are currently three drafts with the last draft by Chuck Antholt. Gerald emphasized that the paper should follow a clearly articulated water strategy and that has not yet been clearly

communicated. Henry, Bill, Fred, and Gerald will work on a draft to be presented to the Water Supply Committee in early January. Scott intends to call a special meeting of the AWB Board to refine and improve the statement after January 15<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of how to communicate the Strategy to various audiences.

D. WID Comprehensive Plan & implementation

- i. Contributions from the Ag Watershed Project – Mark thanked the WID boards and members for their help in preparing the Agriculture-Watershed Characterization and Mapping Reports. He presented one hard copy to each WID. There is abundant data in these reports that can we used to build the Comprehensive Plans for each WID.
- ii. Potential of cooperating with The Conservation Fund – Henry, Greg, and Mark were part of a meeting that explored making use of a Green Infrastructure planning process being advanced by the Conservation Fund – a federal non-profit - <http://www.conservationfund.org/>. The idea is to build on an incentive based, non-regulatory, approach to land and water management that avoids what Mark described as “regulating ourselves into boxes we can’t get out of”. The current controversy surrounding the *Hirst* and *Foster* Supreme Court decisions clearly illustrate his point. Marty emphasized that to be successful this effort should rely on many partners. He noted the contributions of Dan Eisses at Birch Bay Water and Sewer.
- iii. Ag Advisory Committee – Mark noted that the County’s AAC was having difficulty getting members to serve and as a result seldom achieving quorums. He asked for help in recruiting applications. There are 5 openings in January. He also wondered if the AWB was actually serving in this capacity informally now that the WIDs have been established.

IV. Water Quality/Drainage

- A. Quality Monitoring report – Fred reported that Drayton Harbor had opened to year-round shellfish harvesting. Portage Bay has a high number from May, 2014 dropping off the list in January. The challenge is to make sure no new high numbers are generated. There have been some high pulses at the Ferndale ZAP unit but the tests in the Bay have not been too high.
- B. Ditch cleaning – partnership with County – AWB or WID mower/contract – Fred reported on the discussion with the County at the Bertrand WID meeting. We have more County drainage folks coming to the NLWID meeting in January along with WDFW’s Joel Ingram. Scott felt the WIDs, with the help of AWB, would be

well positioned to 1) Identify where mowing and ditch maintenance needs to occur, 2) set up a system for obtaining needed permits for spraying, cleaning, or mowing, and 3) work with the County to determine what they are willing to do and what the WIDs may need to contract to complete.

- C. Drainage – Programmatic 5 year permits – WCD grant application will be determined in mid-December. This would be a big help in working through step 1 (above) for each WID.

V. Water Quantity/Supply

- A. Water Supply Committee report – Scott, Greg, Marty, Jeff
  - i. Response to the Herald’s column by Louws and Buchanan – It was determined to have this response be issued by Family Farmers in order to keep the public from being confused of who speaks for agriculture.
- B. Whatcom Water Supply Coalition - tabled
- C. Water Exchange/Banking -tabled
- D. Cross Border flows - tabled

VI. New Business

- A. Participation with WFF and Farm Bureau on CAO update – WFF approved \$1,000 for the effort. Roger moved to provide \$5,000 to the partnership in 2017, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

VII. Legal – Joint Defense Team, Litigation Management Committee (*Executive Session*)

- A. Report on Tribal Negotiations – Bill
- B. Future of Water Negotiations

VIII. Adjournment - Next Meeting

March 15

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

**Approved by** \_\_\_\_\_