

Ag Water Board

Minutes of Regular Meeting June 20, 2018, 1-3 pm

Ag Water Board office, 204 Hawley Street, Lynden

<u>AWB Board:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Enfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Bedlington
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff De Jong	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Te Velde
<u>Alternates:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vern Vande Garde	<input type="checkbox"/> Terry Lenssen	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landon Van Dyk	<input type="checkbox"/> Rod Tjoelker
	<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader	<input type="checkbox"/> Keith Boon
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Vande Hoef	<input type="checkbox"/> Rolf Haugen	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Stap
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Blok	<input type="checkbox"/> Pete Vlas	<input type="checkbox"/> Harmon Brar
<u>Others:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Gerald Baron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Lindsay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cal Bratt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Haider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler
	<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

- I. Review & Approve March 21 Minutes – Jeff moved approval of the March 21 minutes, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- II. Financial/Administrative
 - A. Financial Reports – Brad moved approval of the Financial reports, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - B. AWB office move to 204 Hawley – finances surrounding the move and upcoming sharing of the rents were discussed. We are \$6,628 short. The board directed Henry to send a request for \$6k to Family Farmers – Education.
- III. Water Quantity/Supply
 - A. Bill Clarke Report – review of the draft of a white paper – Bill reviewed the draft white paper outlining the background to our proposals and the plan we propose. The board suggested more upfront explanation for what farmers need to have resolved through these water supply actions. That is “that all farmland in Whatcom County is critical to maintaining our agricultural base and must have the ability to manage water (drainage, irrigation, flood protection) to remain a productive part of that base”.

The updated document will be used for communication with the County, Water Management Board, and Planning Unit to outline where ag plans to go and why.

The Board suggested a streamlined proposal incorporating much of Bill’s white paper, and adding more details in Drainage Based Management with examples of what has already been accomplished to illustrate how our proposals help not just farmers, but provide net ecological benefits for Tribes and other water users. We will send the draft to the Tribes first requesting a meeting to discuss it and then send the jointly agreed proposal on to the Water Management Board for discussion at their August 1 meeting.

B. Foster Task Force and Pilot Programs

- i. Bill will be presenting our plans for the Whatcom pilot project to the Joint Legislative Task Force on Friday.
- ii. We have been preparing a list of potential surface to ground water transfers by July 1 - The list presented to the board was discussed as to how to prioritize the rankings. Andy moved to present the list as presented, allowing for adjustments as needed, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously. More projects are being recruited and will be presented as options for further stream flow enhancement in the future.

Priority #	Current Owner	Drainage
1	Greg Smit	Bertrand
2	Larry De Haan	Bertrand
3	Terry De Valois	Bertrand
4	MDM Packing	Dakota
5	Jeff Bedlington	Fishtrap
6	Denny Lenssen	Fishtrap
7	Frank De Vries	Bertrand
8	Twyla Vd. Haak	Fishtrap
9	Dwayne Molendyk	Kamm

- iii. R-E/AESI proposal – help WIDs follow-up with conversions – Marty moved to approve up to \$8,000 from the AWB Legal Fund to assist in reviewing potential projects and providing a more complete idea of what the costs would be to complete the projects, Andy seconded, motion carried unanimously. The projects will be worked on in order of priority and until the funding limit is reached.
 - iv. AWB will apply for funds to cover water right transfer processing and cost share for capital costs as project plans are developed.
- C. Deep Aquifer project and development of a water exchange – BBWS – Bill will note this and other “new water” projects in his presentation as well. Our hope is to use the opportunities as a Foster Pilot to make clear the need to change some of the laws that inhibit good projects. Steve Jilk noted the PUD will be very interested in partnering with the AWB and others working on water supply. The board agreed that a formal agreement with the PUD, BBWS, and potentially others would be a goal worth pursuing. Henry, Steve, and Dan will draft a proposal for consideration at the September meeting.
- D. Spring Workshop for farmers – June 5th – over 30 attending with several farms that have not been attentive to water issues present.
- E. Water Management Board
- i. Planning Unit – facilitator hired, workplan developing
 - 1. Growth projections and water use options
 - 2. “net ecological benefit” definition is just out
 - 3. Project list - developing

- ii. 5 year Workplan is being developed for the Water Management Board. A quick review of the elements was presented. It is scheduled for more work including development of a funding plan and is to be adopted by November.

IV. Water Quality/Drainage

- A. DNA project update – Fred, SLWID – The SL project will be completed soon. An additional \$125k has been committed to the WCD and Exact Scientific from the State’s Shellfish Protection funds to further this work.
- B. Drainage – Programmatic 5 year permits being developed in all WIDs. Only Bertrand and Drayton yet to complete. The Sumas WIDs plan is being delayed approval by an endangered frog in the Sumas system.
- C. Floodplain Management Plan – Fred, Jeff
 - i. Grant application submitted by the County which would help ag projects and farmer participation.
 - ii. FLIP learning opportunity – planned for this fall.
- D. CAFO Permit – still in legal disputes. It may be months before this is decided.

V. Communication/Education

- A. Media Relations report – WFF submitted a report addressing:
 - i. REAL campaign – multi-channel media campaign illustrating how farmers are demonstrating environmental leadership. Looking for financial support from the larger community as well.
 - ii. Labor – the Protect Farmworkers Now website has been exposing false statements from labor advocate groups. Funding this program is a challenge.
 - iii. CAFO appeal – supporting dairy’s arguments for a workable and fair program.
 - iv. Chinook Recovery – a new video entitled “King of Salmon” was played alerting the public to the large amount of predation from marine mammals.
 - v. Berry Trade – working on a contract with WRRRC to inform consumers about the risks and consequences to the community for relying on imported food.
- B. AWB fall Newsletter – work on a late September publication.
- C. WCD speaker series – Kristin presented a report and thanks for AWB sponsorship of the 2017-18 series. The 2018-19 Series is in development. Rich moved approval of a \$800 sponsorship, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

VI. Adjournment - Next Meeting

September 19

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____