Ag Water Board

Special Meeting April 15, 2015, 2-4 pm
Whatcom Farm Friends conference room

AWB Board:

__x__ Keith Boon
__o__ Scott Bedlington
__x__ Ed Blok
__x__ Marty Maberry
__x__ Mike Boxx

Alternates:

__x__ Vern Vande Garde
__x__ Landon Van Dyk
_____ Andy Enfield
_____ Terry Lenssen
_____ Rod Tjoelker
_____ Jeff De Jong
_____ Greg Ebe
_____ Jon Maberry
_____ Rolf Haugen
_____ Rich Appel
_____ Brad Rader

Others:

__x__ Fred Likkel
__x__ Henry Bierlink
_____ David Haggith
__x__ Gerald Baron
__x__ Ann Russell
__x__ Robin Dexter

I. Review & Approve March 27th Minutes

In Scott's absence VP Marty called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. Mike moved to approve the March 27th minutes, Keith seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Financial

A. Budget - Keith moved to approve the 2015 AWB Budget, Landon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

2015 AWB Budget (9 month) - Approved 4/15/15

WID	Insurance	Admin/W. Qt.	Legal	W. Qual/Dr.	Projects	TOTAL
Bertrand	$624	$3,600	$6,480	$3,802	$3,218	17,724
South Lynden	$546	$3,150	$5,670	$3,326	$2,816	15,509
Drayton	$286	$1,650	$2,970	$1,742	$1,475	8,124
Laurel	$338	$1,950	$3,510	$2,059	$1,743	9,601
Sumas	$806	$4,650	$8,370	$4,910	$4,157	22,894
	2,600	**15,000**	**27,000**	**15,840**	**13,410**	**73,850**

B. Clarke Letter of Engagement – The Board reviewed the letter which defined the role Bill will play for the AWB and the WIDs. There were a few questions about definition of terms but all were comfortable it meet their expectations of the relationship.

C. Director Insurance – Henry presented a quote from Guide Insurance. There was question about how much D & O liability is needed. The WIDs are insured for $10k. The quote did not have that level. Henry will check further and obtain two more quotes.

D. Support for WID Board attendance to Crisis Mgt. Training – The board reflected on the importance of having leaders trained in crisis response and media relations. The workshop provided by Gerald Baron next week is a

great opportunity for this. The Board supported the idea of using WID funds to pay for the training of the board members. Other farm leaders who are WID members are also invited to have their expenses paid by their member WID. Marty encouraged every WID to have a representative at the training.

III. Communication/Education

A. AWB website – being developed. It will have each WID linked into it.

B. P.O. Box and phone # - AWB will use the ADC PO box. #737 , Lynden. Keith reminded Henry that the 354-0948 FAX # wasn't working properly. Vern moved to approve the expenses of having a new line installed in the WFF office for AWB, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.

IV. Media Relations – training session on April 22nd

Gerald Baron outlined the sessions planned for next Wednesday and engaged the Board in a discussion of what they may need in the future. He noted that there are two fundamental elements of PR:

Reactive - primarily limiting damage when challenges arise. Need to have prepared leaders and clarity on who speaks for the AWB on specific issues and who does not.

Proactive - Building public support. Make use of websites, social media , You-Tube. Have segments prepared that will support the crisis response needs. Find supporters, engage them, and activate them.

V. Spokesperson for AWB

It was evident that this is something that needs to be carefully and thoughtfully considered but also an immediate need. Gerald will summarize what he hears from the farmers after the workshops on the 22nd. Fred and Henry will construct a one –page proposal to be considered by each WID in their May meetings.

VI. Initial Issues

A. Shellfish bed closure response – no new responses

B. Groundwater Modeling project – in action. Will help us demonstrate the amount of water we have to manage in the County.

C. Quantity negotiations – likely to be restarted in the near future. Lummi has promised to come brief the boards.

D. Designation of WRIA #1 Ag Caucus representative - Vern moved to have Henry, Landon, and Marty be official ag representatives for the ag caucus of the Watershed Planning Unit, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment - Next Meeting – June 17th