**Bertrand Watershed Improvement District**

**Minutes for: September 15, 2015 Meeting, 1:30 pm - 3 pm**

## Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

\_\_x\_\_ Vern VandeGarde \_\_x\_\_ Scott Bedlington \_\_o\_\_ Mike Schoeneveld

\_\_x\_\_ Pete Vlas \_\_\_\_\_ Greg Ebe

\_\_x\_\_ Henry Bierlink \_\_x\_\_ Dale Buys \_\_\_\_\_ Larry De Haan

\_\_x\_\_ Gary Stoyka \_\_\_\_\_ Joanne Greenberg \_\_x\_\_ Steve Jilk

\_\_x\_\_ Jim Bucknell \_\_\_\_\_ Heather McKay \_\_x\_\_ Chuck Lindsay

x = present o = absent with notice

# Consent Agenda

# Review and Approval of July 21 Minutes

1. Financial Report and payment of bills

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Original Amount | This Month | Total | Available |
| 2015 Capital Grant | | $198,821.00 |  | $32,280.60 | $166,540.40 |
| 2014 Proviso | | $50,000.00 |  | $50,000.00 | $0.00 |
| Fund Balance @ 9/1/15 | |  | $86,975.63 |  |  |
| Accounts Payable - DD #4 *Interlocal* | | | $10,000.00 |  |  |
| Invoices Submitted for reimbursement | | |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL Available |  |  |  | $86,975.63 |
| Outstanding bills: | |  |  |  | $86,524.44 |
|  | Whatcom Farm Friends | *June - August* |  |  |  |
|  | Vern Vande Garde | *per diem* |  |  |  |
|  | Northwest Surveying | *Guide Meridian survey* | | 1,500.00 |  |
|  | Reichardt & Ebe | *Augmentation grant - partial* | | 2,000.00 |  |
|  | Enduris | *Insurance 9/15 - 9/16* | | 2,641.00 |  |
|  | Whatcom County | *Groundwater Model* | | 80,383.44 |  |
| End of Month Balance | |  |  |  | **$451.19** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 2015 Budget | Expended to Date |  | Balance |
| Insurance | | 2,600 | 2,641.00 |  | -41.00 |
| AWB |  | 30,000 | 16,680.23 |  | 13,319.77 |
| Projects | | 12,428 | 10,493.50 |  | 1,934.50 |
| Administration | | 14,000 | 8,156.86 |  | 5,843.14 |
|  |  | **59,028** | **37,971.59** |  | **21,056.41** |

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

**II. Old Business**

1. Administrative
   * Consider annexation of additional acres – the board reviewed the map but saw no obvious areas to annex. Henry was asked to draft a letter to Steensma and Dickinson asking them to consider joining the WID in 2016.
   * prepare for nominations for directors (Greg’s term is up, Mike and Scott need to be confirmed ) and 2016 Budget preparation

**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 – three positions in Bertrand, one in Drayton, one 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 2016 Assessment Role and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization.  Equalization issues in the Bertrand will be heard at 2pm, December 1st, for Drayton at 3pm, December 15th, for Laurel at 10am, December 14th, for North Lynden at 10am, December 15th, for South Lynden at 3pm, December 8th, and for Sumas at 1pm, December 8th, all at the District’s office.  The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 26th to November 27th.*

*Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts’ offices located at 1796 Front Street, Lynden.*

Public Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 14, 21, 28

Pete moved to nominate Mike, Greg, and Scott to continue to serve, Scott seconded, motion carried unanimously.

1. Ag Water Board
   * 1. Legal
        + Legal Defense Agreement is in place. Bill Clarke has been providing memos for the Legal Defense team so that we have a better understanding of the potential legal positions for parties likely to be part of a settlement or court proceedings.
     2. Media Relations
        + Herald columns – Gerald Baron has been working with the Media Relations Committee to craft columns that advocate for farmers concerns.
     3. Whatcom Family Farmers
        + Organization of board – an initial meeting is to be held 3:30 Sept. 23rd.
2. Augmentation Project
   * Tasks #1 & 4 – Conversion and Consolidation - Bedlington, De Valois, De Haan, Smit. Chuck and Dale met with the farmers and gathered the information needed to make initial assessments. Individual meetings with each farmer are being scheduled. There are 5 surface rights that have potential to be converted to groundwater.

* Task #3 - Augmentation – The board sensed that trying some post irrigation season augmentation using groundwater sources already in use to add water to the Bertrand was worth exploring. We could better understand the hydraulics by turning a few pumps on and adding water to the Creek in September. Henry will talk to WDFW and Tom Buroker at Ecology. Dale will provide what is needed to ensure the water is oxygenated and the iron content is not too high for adding to the stream. A monitoring protocol is also needed.

1. Ground water Modeling - Chuck Lindsay reported that progress continues with no significant challenges or holdups. He is looking for some fall pump tests. The augmentation wells in the Augmentation project may provide that opportunity. He also has 13 more data loggers to install in wells throughout the study area. Chuck will identify areas where he needs more data and the WIDs will help him find wells.

**III. New Business**

1. Ditch & Dike Maintenance
   * Culvert replacement – photos of the culvert replacement at the De Boer farm were distributed.
   * Dike repair = $31,000 is the estimate on the River Road area, requesting $15,500 from the BWID. Scott discussed with Paula. There is no money in the 2015 Budget. It is not likely that the WID can justify 50% of all diking projects as only a portion of the WID is in the flood plain.
   * Ditch maintenance – Guide, Jackman, H Street – the DOT is cleaning the Guide at this time. H Street was cleaned as well. Not much on Jackman. Fred will talk to Jeff Gollen at the County. The effects of spraying the ditches was discussed. Most felt that it contributed more to erosion than it helped in drainage.
2. Water Quality
   * Water quality testing results were distributed. Ecology seems eager to provide more source testing which involves more than just fecal coliform testing.
   * Fred noted that the draft of a CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operation) permit has a severe impact on dairies. This is a primary concern for dairies over the next months.
3. Water Quantity
   * Planning Unit – it continues to flounder despite efforts to focus and direct its work. Henry sees it as providing a potentially valuable feedback and advisory role to the County on water issues but it is stuck in process and debates over its “authority” most of the time.
   * Out of Stream Users Group – Lynden, the PUD, the AWB, and likely Bellingham are discussing a focused effort to better understand and advocate for out-of-stream water uses. Gary noted that the Puget Sound Partnership has $170k available to help with watershed planning and that this may be a good use for some of those funds.
   * Drought Preparation application – Bill and Henry have been drafting a proposal to be submitted to Ecology under the Drought Emergency Fund that would analyze significant water rights in each WID, match them as best as possible with existing water uses, and prepare a water brokerage or banking system that would facilitate permanent or seasonal transfers.
   * The Lummi’s are seeking an early October meeting to follow up on the discussion initiated at the June 3 meeting at Lummi.
4. Education
   * Website [www.bertrandwid.com](http://www.bertrandwid.com)
5. Other Items from Commissioners

* Gary noted that the Legislature appointed a Water Supply study committee that includes both Senator Erickson and Representative Lytton.

**IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting**

October 6

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

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