

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for:

January 8, 2013 Meeting, 3 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vern VandeGarde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Groen (phone)	<input type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pete Vlas	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry De Haan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Brueske	<input type="checkbox"/> John Gillies	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Seymour
<input type="checkbox"/> Doug Allen	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Verwolf	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Buroker
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Dumas	<input type="checkbox"/> Joanne Greenberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Bucknell	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather McKay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Lindsay

x = present

o = absent with notice

I. Consent Agenda *(all the following are approved in a single motion if there is a consensus to do so. If a board member cannot consent they can remove the questionable item(s) from the Consent Agenda and discuss it under Old Business).*

a. Review and Approval of November 6, 2012 Minutes

b. Financial Report

	<u>Original Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Balance Available</u>
2009 Capital Grant	\$283,570.00	\$8,010.84	\$84,748.82	\$198,821.18
Fund Balance @ 1/5/13		\$14,766.34		
Accounts Receivable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$14,766.34
Outstanding bills:				\$5,172.98
Vern Vande Garde		Nov. - Dec.	\$280.00	
Whatcom Farm Friends		Nov. - Dec.	\$625.00	
Reichhardt & Ebe		Augmentation	\$4,267.98	
Accounts Payable				
End of Month Balance				\$9,593.36

c. Payment of Bills

Peter moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Steve seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Capital Budget – Augmentation Project

- Surface to ground conversion project
 - Water Rights Guidance document
 - Water Rights pilot

Chuck reported he had two more pages in the appendices to finish. The pilot application on Marty's Axling Road farm has been submitted. There is hope that it will be seen as a Fisheries Enhancement Project. The year-round closure of the lowland streams will be an issue that

needs to be resolved as that raises questions about any project even if it is a net positive for stream flow.

B. Natural Resources Marketplace

Dale reported that the DOT project on the Guide north of H Street may be redesigned providing us another opportunity to suggest alternatives to the storm water detention pond that had been designed. No action on this item.

C. Water Supply Planning for Economic Certainty

Chris Brueske and Steve Jilk reported on the latest developments in implementing the Lower Nooksack water strategy. A \$197,500 Interlocal Agreement between the County and the PUD for the PUD to help facilitate the water budget, Out of Stream User's Group, and the integration with the Small Cities Comp Plans will be reviewed at a Council Surface Water work session on January 22nd. The County intends to lead the development of the Coordinated Water System Plan for potable suppliers. It was noted that along with coordinating water supply with the Cities there should be a clear effort to coordinate with the Ag Strategic Plan as well.

Chris and Steve strongly encouraged farmers and Bertrand board members to be at the work session to support the strategy. There are those who still question some details and these questions have held up progress for over a year. They anticipate the County Council will officially act to approve the Interlocal on the 29th.

III. New Business

- A. Legislation – Annual Consumptive Quantity (ACQ), Extent and Validity Determination – Chuck's work suggests that there are new ways to look at how the state should view water spreading. Since monitoring has to be part of a changed water right there should be a more progressive way to measure if a water right is being used within its QI and QA limits than simply how many acres are being irrigated. This is true within the muni-law as it has been ruled that connections are not the unit to be measured. Shouldn't the same logic be applied to Ag?

Bill Clarke has been working on drafting a bill that Rep. Buys would introduce this session.

- B. Ag Water District development – Steve and Henry have been working on a Scope of Work and Budget that would move this idea along. One of the principle reasons the PUD sees potential partnership is to make use of their Irrigation water right in a manner that both helps the Ag community and protects it from future relinquishment attempts. The group brainstormed about a series of Nooksack River diversions from Lawrence to the PUD Plant at Trigg Rd. which could combine the PUD water right and the Bellingham Middle Fork right and meet water needs with a minimum of investment in pipes and pumps. Management of such a system through a new water district or an authorization of an existing district would be a needed component of such a project. This is but one of the options that dedicated work from a focused ag water entity could help deliver. Board members had many logistical questions about how a district might be organized and how it might function that need to be explored.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meetings

February 5, March 5

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for:

March 5, 2013 Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vern VandeGarde	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Groen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry (tel)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pete Vlas	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry De Haan
<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Benedict	<input type="checkbox"/> John Gillies	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Seymour
<input type="checkbox"/> Doug Allen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Verwolf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Buroker
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Dumas	<input type="checkbox"/> Joanne Greenberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Bucknell	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather McKay	<input type="checkbox"/> Chuck Lindsay
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Lerkens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Kirkpatrick	

x = present

o = absent with notice

I. Consent Agenda *(all the following are approved in a single motion if there is a consensus to do so. If a board member cannot consent they can remove the questionable item(s) from the Consent Agenda and discuss it under Old Business).*

a. Review and Approval of January 8, 2013 Minutes

b. Financial Report

Monthly Financial Report for

February , 2013

	<u>Original</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>Available</u>
2009 Capital Grant	\$283,570.00		\$84,748.82	\$198,821.18
Fund Balance @ 3/5/13		\$17,613.94		
Accounts Receivable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$17,613.94
Outstanding bills:				\$1,681.49
Vern Vande Garde		Jan - Feb	\$210.00	
Whatcom Farm Friends		Jan - Feb	\$850.00	
Reichhardt & Ebe		Augmentation	\$621.49	
Accounts Payable				
End of Month Balance				\$15,932.45

c. Payment of Bills

Peter moved support of the consent agenda, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Capital Budget – Augmentation Project

- Surface to ground conversion project
 - Water Rights Guidance document - complete
 - Water Rights pilot – completed, filed and working its way through the system. Tom reported it had been made a priority due to its

environmental enhancement component. Ecology will not request cost reimbursement for this request either.

- Options for next steps:
 - Valley View /Groen well
 - North H Street /Jackman well
 - North Lynden Water management
 - Outline of a comprehensive water management project
 - Lynden, North Lynden WID, WSDOT

The goal of the Capital Grant is to get more water in the Bertrand at critical low flow periods. We have exhausted most of these options which include: 1) building storage in the upper watershed, 2) pump and dump, and 3) surface to groundwater conversions. There are some merits to each of these activities and we may someday choose to implement some of them in specific locations where it makes sense to do so. But until there is some promise of solving farmer's water right issues along with enhancing fish habitat the board is reluctant to implement any of these.

So we find ourselves at the point of:

- Waiting to see if the surface to ground conversion project can be satisfactorily processed
- Holding approx. \$190k in grant funds with no clear direction of what we may choose to do with them.

Dale outlined the options as:

1. DeHaan well: We know the water is there.
 - a. We could further our research into the method and cost of iron treatment.
2. Valley View: We don't know if the water is there.
 - a. We could drill a well and determine if this is another tool that we could use to mitigate for low flows.
 - b. It isn't worth concerning ourselves with the implementation issues unless we know the water is there.
3. For both 1 and 2 above we are taking someone's word for the fact that this is not a major losing reach. We could possibly investigate the reaches above H St. (which WDFW says is the best habitat) to see if they are in fact not losing reaches and pump and dump would be beneficial.
4. Surface to Ground: We could find another cooperative individual to assist them in preparing a surface to ground transfer application. We cannot fund the actual implementation of such.
5. WSDOT or other project direction: (I don't know if this would be funded)
 - a. We could try to look at plan to re-route historic flows from Guide Ditch or Double Ditch overflow to Bertrand. (We really need water when low flow occurs, and I don't think this will assist in that effort.)
6. This option goes back to the rudimentary basis of this whole effort. Should we do an analysis of the pre-European flow of the Bertrand. This would give us a better baseline of what the stream flows were prior to European settlement and impact. I believe this is, or should be, the goal of those which would criticize the management of the watershed. More is an impact to the users within the watershed and an artificial goal for habitat. Less is an actual impact. This could be done with a very accurate model.

The Board was inclined to keep gathering information which would lead us to a more informed decision on how to best apply these funds.

B. Water Supply Planning for Economic Certainty

- County Council goes in new direction – reenergizes the Planning Unit
- Out of Stream users determining alternative plans to move forward

Steve Jilk recounted the issues surrounding the cancellation of the Interlocal with the PUD and what options that County may be considering as next steps. It appears the Planning Unit will need to be called back to service for consultation over next steps. CE Louws is exploring using the Flood Tax to hire a full-time water manager and the work that had been envisioned in the PUD Interlocal which is to: 1) integrate the water budget data into planning, 2) update the coordinated water system plan, and 3) integrate these plans and data into long range land use planning. These issues will be considered at a Surface Water worksession on the 19th.

III. New Business

- A. Legislation – Status of bills sponsored by Buys, Ericksen – the House bill did not make it through the Appropriations Committee. The Senate bill SSB 5199 is still alive and appears to be headed for passage in the Senate. Steve brought a letter of opposition he had just received from Lummi over these bills.
- B. Ag Water District development – no new activity
- C. Water Quality – Ecology inspection program focused in Bertrand – Jessica and Chris outlined the program which is focused on non-dairy fecal coliform risks. They began in a focused area with a fair amount of data leading them to the Bertrand. They have 10 short term water quality sites they are monitoring to help provide indication of areas to focus. There are 10 stations sampled twice monthly and they intend to keep this in place until mid-December. A March 21st Public Meeting is planned. Ecology is also looking for a local entity to run an associated cost-share program that addresses setbacks, fencing, etc.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meetings

April 2, May 7

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for:

May 14, 2013 Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vern VandeGarde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Groen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry
<input type="checkbox"/> Pete Vlas	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry De Haan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Brueske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Sitkin	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Seymour
<input type="checkbox"/> Doug Allen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Verwolf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Buroker
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Dumas	<input type="checkbox"/> Joanne Greenberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Bucknell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brigitte August	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Lindsay

x = present

o = absent with notice

I. Consent Agenda

(all the following are approved in a single motion if there is a consensus to do so. If a board member cannot consent they can remove the questionable item(s) from the Consent Agenda and discuss it under Old Business).

A. Review and Approval of March 5, 2013 Minutes

B. Financial Report - Payment of Bills

	<u>Original Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Balance Available</u>
2009 Capital Grant	\$283,570.00		\$84,748.82	\$198,821.18
Fund Balance @ 5/13/13		\$18,978.37		
Accounts Receivable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$18,978.37
Outstanding bills:				\$2,521.50
Vern Vande Garde		Mar- Apr	\$210.00	
Whatcom Farm Friends		Mar- Apr	\$1,300.00	
State Auditor		Audit Review	\$334.40	
Reichhardt & Ebe		Augmentation	\$677.10	
Accounts Payable				
End of Month Balance				\$16,456.87

Steve moved to accept the Consent Agenda, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Legislation – Status of bills sponsored by Buys, Erickson – SB5199 is technically still in the House Appropriations committee where it was buried. It has not been considered by the full House. There is a slight chance that it might be resurrected in the Special Session.

B. Capital Budget – Augmentation Project

- Surface to ground conversion project – application pending
- Contract ended Dec., 2012 – agreement to cancel current scope and budget and reserve balance (\$198k) until new Scope is ready (Sept.).

Chuck has helped Henry with producing the final report for the grant. Dale will also contribute.

C. Natural Resources Marketplace – County administering Ag Watershed grant

- Phase I nearly complete – credit accounting system and priorities enhancements for both Ag and watershed identified
- Phase II Pilot Projects under consideration:
 - Permanent CREP project – Groen – impacts on water storage/augmentation
 - Lower Fishtrap – impacts on Duffner Ditch (part of Bertrand system)

Ag-watershed project Report:

1. Phase I products of interest for the Bertrand WID board include:
 - fact sheet #1, fact sheet #2 and the preliminary draft of fact sheet #3 – available from the website <https://sites.google.com/site/wcwatershedag/>
 - Pilots synthesis report tabled at the review committee meeting 6 May.
2. Lower Fishtrap pilot – Heather will be discussing further with Paula Cooper at WCPW to develop a work plan for the modeling & possible field work to take that idea further as a pilot. We hope to get out and conduct baseline assessments in summer/fall 2013 if this pilot goes ahead.
3. Permanent CREP pilot – The priority benefit types for which we aim to test models and protocols on that site are wetland habitat, wetland storage and anadromous fish habitat. The site was identified as a possible area for surface water storage in previous Bertrand reports related to the streamflow augmentation work, and building on that we plan to include some assessment of whether or how the development of wetland habitat on the site (and hence theoretically the development of wetland water storage capacity) might be affecting surface water flows instream, but it's not clear yet whether those effects would actually be measurable on the site. Heather and the WCD are making site maps and starting to plan the baseline and current status assessments this summer as well as follow-up monitoring needed after that, and will discuss further in the next couple of weeks with Christina and Joanne as well as with Dale and Chuck to see what hydrological gauge data and modeling information might be available (and usable) for us to assess the wetland storage benefits generated by the CREP project.

Natural Resources Marketplace Working Group:

1. We are currently modifying the crediting protocol templates for application in the ag-watershed pilot projects (draft protocols will be included in the ag-watershed phase 1 work products).
2. Mary is busy on the revamp of NRM pages on the Farm Friends website as well as standalone NRM pages.

The board discussed how these projects impact/advance the solutions that the WID has been proposing and determined both projects deserve our support. We will look to find means to advance them.

- D. Water Supply Planning for Economic Certainty – Chris reported on the Executive's plan for the next months. The County is requesting \$15k from the Joint Board to facilitate four meetings of the Planning Unit over the remainder of 2013. The County Council will be asked to approve a new staff position under Public Works that will have at least 50% assigned to water supply planning.

III. New Business

- A. Groundwater Modeling – A discussion with Chuck Lindsay on future actions, strategies, studies impacting surface to groundwater conversions was informed by the study WSU did a few years ago where we tried to develop a means of evaluating the effects on streamflow of groundwater withdrawals. Chuck noted the study was run on a steady state

format and that formed a solid foundation to build on. Especially in the Fishtrap and Bertrand watersheds where Christina has developed surface water models. Chuck estimated another \$100k would allow us to run this model in a transient mode which may be enough to provide the hydrogeological information needed to process groundwater applications.

All agreed this was a good course of action for the future but first we would have to eliminate hurdles in the water right process which makes data that might be generated here mute. For example – year round stream closures.

It was suggested that the WID prepare a letter to Ecology outlining what changes in the water code are needed and why we need them.

- B. Ag Water District development – A discussion with Farm Friends and PUD concerning options for representing all ag interests in water challenges was held. Steve and Jon suggested that starting with interlocal agreements between the WIDs and the PUD may be the best way to begin the longer process of building an infrastructure that can effectively represent all farmers on water issues. Henry noted that the specific projects identified in the Natural Resources Marketplace project might be a place to begin.

Marty noted that the idea of forming a LID under the PUD has merit but also has concerns. The PUD is a public entity with ball county residents voting on the commissioners. The potential for a less than ag friendly commission is not a current concern but it may be a future one. Steve countered by noting that even future Commissions will be bound by the contracts/interlocal agreements that the current Commission approves.

The two goals surrounding the consideration of a new or expanded ag water district were outlined. One goal is to have an entity that could contract to manage water, broker water rights, implement physical infrastructure. Goal 2 is to have an entity that clearly and accountably represents farmer's water concerns. These goals might be accomplished with one entity but it not clear how without seeing either an expansion of the current WIDs or a landowner initiative to create a new entity with broader geographic scope.

No decisions were made but the conversation left all with plenty to think about.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meetings

June 4, July 2

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for:

September 3, 2013 Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vern VandeGarde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Groen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pete Vlas	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry De Valois
<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Benedict	<input type="checkbox"/> John Gillies	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Seymour
<input type="checkbox"/> Doug Allen	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Sandal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Buroker
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Dumas	<input type="checkbox"/> Joanne Greenberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Bucknell	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather McKay	<input type="checkbox"/> Chuck Lindsay

x = present

o = absent with notice

I. Consent Agenda

(all the following are approved in a single motion if there is a consensus to do so. If a board member cannot consent they can remove the questionable item(s) from the Consent Agenda and discuss it under Old Business).

- A. Review and Approval of May 14, 2013 Minutes
- B. Financial Report - Payment of Bills
- C. Audit Report – copies of the recent State Audit were distributed to board members. The timeliness of reports were the only suggested improvement.

	<u>Original</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Balance Available</u>
2009 Capital Grant	\$283,570.00		\$84,748.82	\$198,821.18
Fund Balance @ 9/3/13		\$16,817.11		
Accounts Receivable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$16,817.11
Outstanding bills:				\$4,118.31
Vern Vande Garde		May - August	\$210.00	
Whatcom Farm Friends		May - August	\$2,075.00	
State Auditor		Audit Review	\$167.20	
Enduris		Insurance	\$1,543.00	
Reichhardt & Ebe		Augmentation	\$123.11	
Accounts Payable				
End of Month Balance				\$12,698.80

Steve moved to accept the Consent Agenda, Peter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Capital Budget – Augmentation Project

- Surface to ground conversion project – application pending
- Contract ended Dec., 2012 – agreement to cancel current scope and budget and reserve balance (\$198k) until new Scope is ready (Sept.).
- Elements suggested to be included in new Scope of Work:
 1. Renewed surface to ground conversions. Possibly supported by subsidizing the hydrogeology and permit processing work by the Augmentation grant. Terry DV indicated interest, primarily for achieving WID support for his conversion. He hopes to gain support of Ecology for his proposed surface to ground conversion. Subsidizing costs would be an added benefit.
 2. Treatment options – new treatment technology for iron treatment may make use of the De Haan well for augmentation more attractive.
 3. Consolidation – an effort to install more productive wells in strategic locations where several farmers could share the point of diversion might be explored. Developing joint agreements and subsidizing hydrogeology and permit processing might be an attractive feature to offer farmers. Demonstrating a net gain for flows would be a needed component of any change.
 4. Conservation – implementation of more efficient irrigation systems.

B. Natural Resources Marketplace – County administering Ag Watershed grant

- Phase I complete – credit accounting system and priorities enhancements for both Ag and watershed identified
- Phase II Pilot Projects under way:
 - Permanent CREP project – impacts on water storage/augmentation
 - On the Bertrand pilot, the team has been out in the field a few times during July and August to get measurements going. They've installed water level and water temperature loggers at the sites, and will be going out in September to conduct a wetland habitat assessment.
 - Lower Fishtrap – impacts on Duffner Ditch (part of Bertrand system)
 - On the Fishtrap pilot, the team will pick up the discussions again with the landowners during the fall to develop specific actions that enhance both watershed and agricultural services in the pilot site, and will be testing a couple of watershed services metrics for quantifying the benefits of specific actions that enhance/protect stream function and fish habitat.

C. Water Supply Planning for Economic Certainty

- Watershed Planning Unit meetings this fall – Chris Brueske provide the following report:

We are planning the first meeting of the Planning Unit for late September – most likely September 25 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. We'll be attempting to establish who the caucus representatives are and requesting that they provide documentation by the end of October that they are still representative of their respective caucuses. Since the County Council has requested periodic updates from the Planning Unit, we are hoping for the Planning Unit to report twice to the County Council during the next few months – once in early November to report on who the caucus representatives are, and again in January with a proposed work plan for the Planning Unit.

We are working on the contract with a facilitator for the Planning Unit meetings, and the County has recently hired a Natural Resource Manager who will be heading up the County's involvement.

- Discussion of strategy for farm community – Henry suggested that it might be a wise move to encourage the Planning Unit to shut itself down as it seemed no other body but the Legislature has the authority to do so. The point is that our energy, time, and money should be focused on implementation of the Water Plan rather than endless debates on modifying it because the PU has no authority to do any implementation but only advises other entities on what should be done. He was cautioned to not rush into such an action but to listen to other ideas and use the initial meetings to educate others on what we have been doing. By doing so we may be able to build support for eventually transitioning the PU into a more effective Water Supply coalition.

III. New Business

- A. Legislative Water Tour – October 1 – likely in Skagit, details evolving, Bill Clarke serving as a liaison reports that:

The House Ag & NR staff said he was awaiting more info from Reps. Blake and Lytton, but that the general idea was still to do some ag-related tours during the day of Oct 1, then a work session that evening in Mt. Vernon. I think it would be good for us to have (1) A raspberry grower who would be willing to host a tour that day, probably 90 minutes or so; (2) You or someone on behalf of the raspberry commission be prepared for 10/1 to give a 10 - 15 minute presentation on the state's small fruit industry; and (3) I will work on Buck Smith and Ecology folks on any specific details that would be provided on the water rights change legislation.

Henry, Marty, and Jim B. will work further on how our concerns with changes in State water policy could be best illustrated. Steve moved to have the WID commission RH2 to help draft a letter to Ecology requesting a change to the year round closures of most Whatcom creeks, Marty seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Henry and Jim will develop a contract to proceed.

- B. Ag Water District development – The Ag District Coalition is considering options for representing all ag interests in water challenges. A county wide district is one option. Developing separate districts like the Bertrand and North Lynden and then tying them together through a Board of Joint Control is another option. The PUD may be able to provide some assistance in organizing.
- C. Shellfish Social – Lummis are inviting farm leaders to a social event at their shellfish hatchery September 14th. Henry will let the board know as details develop.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meetings

October 1

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for:

November 12, 2013 Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vern VandeGarde	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Groen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry
<input type="checkbox"/> Pete Vlas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry De Haan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Lindsay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Buroker

x = present o = absent with notice

Vern called the **Board of Equalization public hearing** to order at 2:07. No one was present to contest the assessment role.

I. Consent Agenda

(all the following are approved in a single motion if there is a consensus to do so. If a board member cannot consent they can remove the questionable item(s) from the Consent Agenda and discuss it under Old Business).

A. Review and Approval of September 3, 2013 Minutes

B. Financial Report - Payment of Bills

	<u>Original Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Balance Available</u>
2009 Capital Grant	\$283,570.00		\$84,748.82	\$198,821.18
Fund Balance @ 11/1/13		\$16,864.45		
Accounts Receivable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$16,864.45
Outstanding bills:				\$7,708.94
Vern Vande Garde		Sept. - Oct.	\$420.00	
Whatcom Farm Friends		Sept. - Oct.	\$1,975.00	
Bill Clarke		Legal assistance	\$3,000.00	
Lynden Tribune		legal ad	\$92.40	
RH2		Policy Assistance	\$2,221.54	
Accounts Payable				
End of Month Balance				\$9,155.51

Marty moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Board Nominations – Appointments – term ending for Marty

PUBLIC NOTICE – Bertrand and North Lynden Watershed Improvement Districts

Residents within the Bertrand and North Lynden Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – one position in Bertrand, two in North Lynden – 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 2014 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 2 pm, November 12, 2013, for North Lynden at 10 am, November 19, 2013, both at the District's office. The Assessment Roles for both Districts are available for inspection from October 14 to November 19.*

*Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts' offices located at:
Bertrand Watershed Improvement District
North Lynden Watershed Improvement District
1796 Front Street, Lynden*

Marty submitted his declaration of Candidacy. No other submissions were received.

B. Legislative Water Tour – October 1

- a. WAC Change request – Marty and Henry reported on the tour and the discussion. There was strong interest in the Natural Resources committee in helping farmers address their water concerns. A formal request to open the yearround closure of the Nooksack basin was filed and Ecology is reviewing the request. They intend to have a response by early December. The importance of making this change so that more innovative water management measures might be pursued was discussed.
- b. Water bill strategy – It was agreed that we should rely on Bill Clarke's judgment to determine the best sponsor for the bill this session.

C. Capital Budget – Augmentation Project

- Surface to ground conversion project – application pending
- Contract ended Dec., 2012 – agreement to cancel current scope and budget and reserve balance (\$198k) until new Scope is ready.
- Elements suggested to be included in new Scope of Work:
 1. Renewed surface to ground conversions. Possibly supported by subsidizing the hydrogeology and permit processing work by the Augmentation grant. Terry DV indicated interest, primarily for achieving WID support for his conversion. He hopes to gain support of Ecology for his proposed surface to ground conversion. Subsidizing costs would be an added benefit. Chuck Lindsay may also be engaged to advance the modeling for groundwater – surface water interaction. Identifying mitigation site options and optimizing their use will also be part of this element.
 2. Treatment options – new treatment technology for iron treatment may make use of the De Haan well for augmentation more attractive.
 3. Consolidation – an effort to install more productive wells in strategic locations where several farmers could share the point of diversion might be explored. Developing joint agreements and subsidizing hydrogeology and permit processing might be an attractive feature to offer farmers. Demonstrating a net gain for flows would be a needed component of any change.
 4. Conservation – implementation of more efficient irrigation systems.

Marty moved to approve the drafting of a Scope of Work and budget for the activities discussed, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously. Chuck, Dale, and Henry will prepare a draft and circulate for final comments prior to submitting it to Ecology.

D. Natural Resources Marketplace – County administering Ag Watershed grant

- Phase I complete – credit accounting system and priorities enhancements for both Ag and watershed identified
- Phase II Pilot Projects under way:
 - Permanent CREP project – impacts on water storage/augmentation

- Lower Fishtrap – impacts on Duffner Ditch (part of Bertrand system)

Henry reported that an all day worksession was occurring today. He had attended all morning. The Technical Team was working on improving metrics for both ag and watershed enhancement. The two pilots were being reviewed and strategies for advancing them were discussed. It is clear this is a long term project that won't deliver clear deals for at least one year.

E. Water Supply Planning for Economic Certainty

- Watershed Planning Unit meetings this fall
- Discussion of strategy for farm community

Steve Jilk informed the group of the discussions at the Joint Board over how the Planning Unit would be funded and who nit is accountable and responsible to. The next few weeks will hopefully bring some clarity to those questions.

III. New Business

A. Resolution to set 2014 Budget and Assessment Rate

2014 Budget

Income

2013 Assessments	\$ 5,759
Project Grants, Interlocals	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
	\$ 10,759

Expenses

Directors Insurance	\$ 1,550
Board Meetings & Education	\$ 2,400
Projects	\$ 5,000
Administration	<u>\$ 1,809</u>
	\$ 10,759

B. Resolution to approve 2014 Assessment Role

Marty moved to approve both Resolution 2013-1 and 2013-2, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion with City of Bellingham

Representatives of the Ag District Coalition met with Jon Hutchings, Asst. Director of Public Works at Bellingham to follow up on the offer made by Clare Fogelzong at a farmer water meeting in October. Clare had noted that Bellingham is interested in discussions over contracting water for ag purposes but needs an entity to contract with. Bertrand and North Lynden WIDs could be those entities and the vision of the Ag District Colalition to form more WIDs and a Joint Board for overall facilitation was discussed. A meeting with the Mayor will be scheduled soon to keep these discussions active.

D. Ag Water District development – discussion with Ag District Coalition concerning options for representing all ag interests in water challenges. Some charts outlining the DRAFT ideas for organizing were distributed and reviewed.

IV. Adjournment/Next Meetings

January 7

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Whatcom Farm Friends

Approved by _____