

Ag Water Board

Minutes of Regular Meeting September 20, 2021, 1 pm

Ag Water Board office, 204 Hawley Street, Lynden

Zoom Meeting ID: 876 1622 8547 Passcode: 392329

<u>AWB Board:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Andy Enfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff De Jong	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe
<u>Alternates:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vern Vande Garde	<input type="checkbox"/> Terry Lenssen	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Bedlington
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel	<input type="checkbox"/> Landon Van Dyk	<input type="checkbox"/> Rod Tjoelker
	<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Te Velde	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Stoyka	<input type="checkbox"/> Paula Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dillon Honcoop
	<input type="checkbox"/> Caleb Cole	<input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Embertson	<input type="checkbox"/> Becky Petersen
	<input type="checkbox"/> Val Davis	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Elder	<input type="checkbox"/> Meagan Davis
	<input type="checkbox"/> Angela Gelfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Hamilton

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

- I. Minutes - Review & Approve - June 16, 2021
 Jeff moved approval of the June 16th minutes, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- II. Financial/Administrative
 - A. Financial Reports – The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement through August were reviewed. Jeff moved approval, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - B. Marty moved to authorize Stacey to access (not change) Peoples Bank account, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - C. 2022 Budgeting – developing a 2022 Budget that addresses current needs and anticipated needs that arise from the pending adjudication caused the Board to examine needed investments in a “Legal/Water Right Acquisition” fund that would provide the funds to help farmers prepare for an adjudication. The Board discussed several budget options but felt that this was not the time to miss the opportunity to collect the funds that will be needed to defend farmer’s water. Marty moved to advance the following budget to the WIDs which would require \$10/acre investments, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

<u>Office/ Misc</u>	<u>Admin</u>	<u>Legal</u>	<u>Legal Reserve</u>	<u>Water Supply</u>	<u>Quality & Drainag e</u>	<u>Public Affairs</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
\$5,437	\$15,223	\$15,658	\$0	\$10,874	\$8,155	\$12,505	\$67,851
\$2,167	\$6,068	\$6,242	\$0	\$4,334	\$3,251	\$4,985	\$27,047
\$4,622	\$12,942	\$13,312	\$0	\$9,245	\$6,933	\$10,631	\$57,686
\$2,710	\$7,587	\$7,803	\$0	\$5,419	\$4,064	\$6,232	\$33,815

\$3,056	\$8,557	\$8,801	\$0	\$6,112	\$4,584	\$7,029	\$38,139
\$7,008	\$19,623	\$20,184	\$0	\$14,016	\$10,512	\$16,119	\$87,462

25,000 70,000 72,000 0 50,000 37,500 57,500 312,000

The board directed staff to develop a one pager that would outline the purpose and plan for the large increase in the “Legal/Water Right Acquisition” account.

D. Ecology Grant - \$150k for 2 years

- i. Augmentation on Dakota Creek is planned for the summer, 2022. All needed paperwork has been submitted.

III. Water Quantity/Supply

A. AWB Water Supply issues - Bill

- i. Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report indicates parties are not “ripe”, suggests a “solutions table”
- ii. Adjudication – seems hard to stop, exploring ways to mitigate the damage
- iii. Legal preparation
 - 1. Executive sessions for WID Boards – pending litigation – at Oct mtg.
 - 2. Working with private attorneys to find the most effective structure to help all farmers with water right concerns.
 - 3. Standing in adjudication – have WIDs seek interest in a water right

B. AESI contract – Jay

- i. Water right list – AESI has prepared a list of water rights for each of the WIDs and is working on merging this list with the current parcel layer so that the Boards will be able to see the current owner of the water right. The goal is to ensure that all rights are in use and fully prepared for adjudication. We will examine the rights where use is not as clear or use is minimal as potential candidates for acquisition, transfers, leases, etc. Reconciling the Ecology database and County Parcel layer is a current challenge AESI is working through.
- ii. Request for infrastructure projects – \$20m targeted to infrastructure in Whatcom, other federal funds are flowing through grant programs like those under the Bureau of Reclamation. AESI prepared a spreadsheet describing the ideas for projects that have been considered in the past 30 years. Each WID board was asked to review them and add new ideas that might be advanced. A rough budget was applied for each project.

C. [North County Water Resources Group](#) – BBWS draft was discussed with Lynden, PUD and Bertrand, Dakota, and North Lynden WIDs. The purpose would be to ensure the County is consistent in land and water planning and to jointly prepare for adjudication.

D. Regional Water Supply - a [Phase II – expansion to priority watersheds](#) – lower mainstem, Fishtrap.

E. Drainage Based Management – Chris Elder discussed the [Report from facilitator Jim Kramer](#) and the [Next steps Memo](#).

F. Other items of note:

- i. [Groundwater Model](#) – final steps in the peer review are being completed.

- ii. Planning Unit motion – “Ideal water plan is to update the salmon recovery plan, the watershed management plan, and then incorporate both into the County Comprehensive Plan” – approved on a 5-4 vote
- iii. [WCD Water Management draft report](#) - Nichole summarized the draft report prepared for the County. Board members will provide more feedback this fall.
- iv. [Climate Action Plan Report](#)- Chris explained the report had been worked on for many years and was currently in front of the County Council for approval. There are sections in the report on water supply and agriculture. Fred noted the Sustainable Farms and Fields Program that was established by the Legislature but not adequately funded. This may be a tool for helping farmer adjust.

IV. Water Quality/Drainage/Flood

- A. Quality update – provide to WIDs
- B. DNA project – Avian project – Kent will present the results at the South Lynden WID tomorrow. Fred reported that there is a sense that we are making progress on isolating sources
- C. Drainage projects
 - i. Interlocal Agreement on stormwater – BWID, NLWID, Lynden – will take effect in October. Willamette Partnership is poised to help.
 - ii. Ditch cleaning – Fred noted the County was responsive to our requests which was much appreciated.
- D. Update on Floodplains by Design discussions and potential projects – overlap with DBM – all project discussions are clouded by the looming adjudication.

V. Communication/Education

- A. [Media Relations report](#) was reviewed.
 - i. Plan for Legislative education – WFF campaign – projection is this work will come under the \$40k budget.
 - ii. Large increased in engagement with social media.

VI. Adjournment - Next Meetings

Meeting was adjourned at 2:20. Next AWB Board meeting is December 15.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____