

# Ag Water Board

## Minutes of Regular Meeting December 14, 2022, 1 pm

Ag Water Board office, 204 Hawley Street, Lynden

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82350150853?pwd=VnpJckpraEg0UnFCSTdWU2t6amxidz09>

Meeting ID: 823 5015 0853 Passcode: 980145

<u>AWB Board:</u>	<input type="radio"/> Andy Enfield	<input type="radio"/> Marty Maberry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff De Jong	<input type="radio"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keith Boon
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rod Vande Hoef	<input type="checkbox"/> Pablo Esquivel	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Stap
	<input 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"/> Chris Elder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink
	<input type="radio"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input type="radio"/> Steve Jilk
	<input type="radio"/> Gary Stoyka	<input type="checkbox"/> Paula Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dillon Honcoop
	<input type="radio"/> Jay Chennault	<input type="radio"/> Atul Deshmane	<input type="radio"/> Zen Wilhelm
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney	<input type="radio"/> Alan Chapman	<input type="radio"/> Kasey Cykler

*x = present                      o = absent with notice                      t = teleconference*

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:02.

- I. Minutes - Review & Approve – Mike moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2022 meeting, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- II. Financial/Administrative
  - A. Financial Reports were reviewed
  - B. Financial Review – Larsen, Gross review report was received and being reviewed by the Executive Committee. Brad noted there were no significant issues but opportunity to tighten up procedures that we will be working on.
  - C. 2023 Contract with Whatcom Family Farmers – Jeff moved to approve this contract, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously.
  - D. Sumas WID support – Bill reviewed a draft resolution that was prepared in response to a request from the Sumas WID. The FEMA work the SWID is sponsoring will create a cash flow issue for the SWID as they need to pay contractors prior to submitting reimbursement requests to FEMA and initial reimbursement checks often take up to six months to process. The SWID will need approximately \$100k as a bridge loan to address this issue. Several other WIDs has significant account balances that could assist the SWID with this issue but direct loans between WIDs were not clearly authorized in the statutes. Jeff moved to approve Resolution 2022-03 which was drafted by Bill which allowed AWB to help the WIDs with this financial transaction, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously. Bill will check with the State Auditor to make sure this is done properly.
- III. Water Quantity/Supply
  - A. Bill Clarke report
    - i. Somach Law – [alternative to adjudication](#) – the paper on recent history of federal settlements is being circulated and being well received.

- ii. PUD Initiative – an effort lead by the PUD attorney is building on the arguments in the Kroft report and seeking to build local interest.
    - iii. 2023 Legislature – AWB strategy remains to:
      - Oppose adjudication funding
      - Suggest conditions that would make it less damaging – a recent letter to the Legislature outlining more desirable avenues for resolution of water issues was recently sent by AWB.
  - B. Ecology
    - i. Solutions Showcase - learning from the [Yakima example @ October 21<sup>st</sup> WMB mtg](#)
      - WFF produced a summary of the event
      - Water Mgt Board mtg – December 15<sup>th</sup> – lessons learned discussion is on that agenda. Gary reviewed some of the questions which pointed to many of the same arguments that Ramsey suggested in her paper.
  - C. County
    - i. Local govt caucus organization in early 2023 in response to the AWB request.
    - ii. Project list for both WIDs and AWB to be presented at some venue
      - Drainage Based Management – [South Fork actions in process](#)
  - D. Water Right acquisition candidates
    - i. Establish an AWB Water Bank – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange - submitted pre-application documents and meeting with Ecology to create the Exchange](#)
  - E. Stream Augmentation project in Dakota Creek – finish current Streamflow grant
- IV. Water Quality/Drainage/Flood
- A. Update 5-year programmatic HPA permits – Frank drafted a new permit for South Lynden WID. We are waiting for feedback from WDFW to see if this will suffice as the template for the other WID permit renewals.
  - B. Update on Floodplains by Design discussions and potential projects – Fred reported that Jim Kramer has joined the group to help facilitate which is a very hopeful move.
  - C. Riparian Buffers – legislation, courts, [EQIP opportunity](#) – both Fred and Aneka alerted the board to significant background discussions surrounding the next iteration of a “buffer bill” following the discord following the defeat of the idea in the 2022 session. There were questions about how we could better document the utility of the numerous small buffers that have been installed in the County on aglands.
  - D. FEMA projects – Sumas and Bertrand have projects in place.
  - E. [CLASS](#) – west Lynden stormwater discussions are occurring with progress towards developing a regional drainage system in the north and west Lynden area.
- V. Communication/Education – lots of activity but no formal reports.
- A. Media Relations report
  - B. REAL campaign
- VI. New Business
- A. Aneka noted the WCD board has elections for 2 of its board positions in March. January 6<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for applications.
  - B. Aneka noted the Ag Census is soon to be distributed. Many federal programs rely on this information so participation is very helpful for future funding opportunities.

VII. Adjournment - Next Meetings

Brad adjourned the meeting at 2:13. The next meetings are March 15, June 21, September 20, December 13

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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