

# Ag Water Board

## Regular Meeting December 20, 2017, 1-3 pm

Ag Water Board office, 1796 Front Street, Lynden  
Teleconference – 712-451-0200, Passcode: 254192#

<u>AWB Board:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Enfield	<input type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Bedlington
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Vande Hoef	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Te Velde
<u>Alternates:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vern Vande Garde	<input type="checkbox"/> Terry Lenssen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel	<input type="checkbox"/> Landon Van Dyk	<input type="checkbox"/> Rod Tjoelker
	<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Maberry	<input type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader	<input type="checkbox"/> Keith Boon
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff De Jong	<input type="checkbox"/> Rolf Haugen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Stap
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ed Blok		
<u>Others:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gerald Baron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Stoyka	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dillon Honcoop

### I. Water Quantity/Supply

- A. Bill Clarke Report – Foster, Hirst and funding for water projects were covered in Bill’s report. He mentioned the creation of a Foster Fix taskforce which is anticipated to be formalized by the Legislature. He anticipates a Hirst fix bill that will require local committees to be developed for the purpose of identifying ways to restore flows. The current Water Management Board should fill this role. A reduction in volume for exempt wells is also anticipated. Probably for indoor use only and 350-500 gpd. The \$450k Proviso request submitted by the County, PUD, and AWB was not included in the Governor’s request budget but was assumed to be addressed in the \$20 million provided to Ecology to address flow issues.
- B. Local actions:
- Water Symposiums – Sept. 20-21, December 13 – Henry noted that the programs in each of these symposiums was developed to build community consensus for implementing the water management plan.
  - Whatcom Water Supply Working Group – January 18<sup>th</sup> - the workplan for this group was provided. This group is a staff level committee where ideas are generated and discussed leading to formal consideration at the Management team level.
  - Water Management Board strategy development – Henry is invited to a January 3<sup>rd</sup> strategy session of the local gov’t caucus on the Management Team. This will be an opportunity to vet the ideas proposed by the AWB in the “Next Steps” proposal.
  - Planning Unit – a social event @6pm Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> @ ReSources is planned. AWB members are invited to attend. Vern agreed to go with Henry.
- C. AWB “Next Steps” proposal – The Water Supply committee brought a proposal they had marked up along with Bill Clarke for the board’s consideration. It generated a lot of discussion and questions leading to agreement that the AWB felt this was the kind of proactive work that farmers ought to lead the County to do. Andy moved that we

adopt the [draft proposal](#), vet it with the local gov't caucus, and discuss it at each WID meeting in January, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- D. Future and shape of Water Negotiations – Bill will arrange a meeting with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Legislators for the first week of January. 40th Legislators will also be briefed.

## II. Water Quality/Drainage

- A. Monitoring update – David reported that most areas are testing quite well. There are concerns over increasing numbers in Drayton Harbor but it does not seem to be sourced from farms. Sumas is also an area of concern. Two meetings organized by the Sumas WID with dairy farmers have been very helpful.
- B. DNA project update – David, SLWID – David noted that the EPA/Lummi DNA study was only able to identify human sources. The Scott Ditch samples have been collected and are planned to be analyzed by Exact Scientific in January.
- C. Drainage – Programmatic 5 year permits being developed in all WIDs
  - i. SL request on legality of how the stream classification maps are developed – Bill will check into what authority underlies the classification system.
- D. Floodplain Management Plan – Paula Harris presented the 2016 Floodplain by Design application which ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State for priority funding but was pulled because of the objection of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Legislators. Scott ran through a list of supportive organizations which included the Bertrand WID, Lummi, PUD, County, and Drainage Districts. Paula is seeking feedback on whether to resubmit the proposal in light of the failure last year. The board heard her [2018 proposal](#) which is due February 16<sup>th</sup>. Consensus was to support this and to bring this issue up in our meeting with the Legislators in January. Whatcom Family Farmers was asked to consider engaging on this issue and the Proviso request as well.
- E. Report on Tribal Negotiations – PBP – Jeff noted there had been no communication over the past months with the uncertainty of the tribal elections and the stalemate over designated experts. He expects to try to reengage the groups shortly.

## III. Review & Approve September 13 Minutes – Financial report

Andy moved to approve the September 13 minutes and the financial report, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.

## IV. Financial/Administrative

- A. Sumas WID request - reconsider how AWB apportions WID contributions. The Sumas WID requested the AWB to relook at how we apportion administrative costs. They believe that administering WIDs costs the same amount no matter the acreage number. If administrative costs were apportioned equally rather than based on acreage the Sumas WID would have a substantial increase in their project budget. But other WIDs may see their project budgets decrease because they would be paying more of the administrative expenses. The 2018 budget is already set so no change will occur in 2018. Sumas would like further consideration of this proposal as we prepare the 2019 budget.

- B. AWB Strategic Plan – the plan to build on assignments at 3/20 WID Planning mtg was not addressed.
- C. AWB office – Umpqua Bank is closing March 13<sup>th</sup>. There is no word yet on the potential of remaining in the building once the Bank vacates. Umpqua is trying to sell the building. Steve Jones is keeping us informed of any developments. Meanwhile, the board was challenged to be thinking about other options.

V. Old Business

- A. CAO update – the Farm Bureau led the effort for ag.
- B. County water program funding – Gary reported that the County opted not to increase the Flood tax but determined to address budget deficits by establishing another taxing authority surrounding Lake Whatcom storm water management.

VI. Communication/Education

- A. AWB winter Newsletter – will be delayed until February following the WIDs consideration of the Next Steps proposal. WID reports will be collected in the January meetings.
- B. Media Relations report- Gerald and Dillon provided a [written report](#) of recent activities and upcoming actions. Labor is getting an increasing amount of attention. A website. [www.farmworkerjusticenow.org](http://www.farmworkerjusticenow.org) is in development.

VII. Adjournment - Next Meeting

March 21