

Ag Water Board

Minutes of Regular Meeting March 16, 2022, 1 pm

Ag Water Board office, 204 Hawley Street, Lynden

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83750232993?pwd=Q3p0dG5KSXWxjYlRjTi9DZVNLaUY1dz09>

Meeting ID: 837 5023 2993 Passcode: 625441

<u>AWB Board:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Enfield	<input type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry	<input type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff De Jong	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Stoyka	<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Hamilton
	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault	<input type="checkbox"/> Atul Deshmane	<input type="checkbox"/> Ramsey Kroft
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alex Jeffers	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Reed	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber

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

I. Minutes - Review & Approve – [December 15, 2021](#), [February 21, 2022](#) Special Board meeting – after a quick review Andy moved to approve both sets of minutes, Jeff seconded, motion approved unanimously.

II. Financial/Administrative

- A. Financial Reports – Henry reviewed the Balance sheet and Profit and Loss statement. The report was received for information.
- B. Contracts – Henry provided an item for consideration suggested by the Water Supply Committee. They note that the Legal Reserve Fund – balance = \$150,000 – would be severely depleted before the end of the year in light of contracts approved in the last 6 months.
 - a. AESI - \$47,040 for WID support, water rights list, gw/sw investigation, and project list
 - b. Reichhardt & Ebe - \$13,000 – surface to ground conversions
 - c. Somach Law - \$90k from January, 2022 to June, 2023

The board determined to hold off asking the WIDs to contribute more to the Legal Reserve Fund in 2022 until the need was clearer. It will be addressed at the June or September AWB board meeting.

III. Water Quantity/Supply

- A. Bill Clarke report
 - i. County funds from Legislature for flood response were approved. County is encouraged by the Legislature to incorporate flooding into all parts of water planning.
 - ii. Bill introduced Ramsey Kroft of Somach Law – [scope of work](#). AWB is contacted with them to provide legal services throughout 2022 and the first half of 2023. Ramsey provided her background, highlighted some areas where they will help AWB, and answered some questions from farmers.
- B. Solutions Table – beginning in May/June – Both Bill and Gary provided updates from their conversations with Maia. It is still on course but needs more review by the Watershed Management Team and ultimately by the Watershed Management Board. There is growing consensus this table should deal with flooding and other water management issues other than just the issues addressed in an adjudication. Membership, ground rules, etc. are being discussed.

- i. Project list for both WIDs and AWB to be presented at this table as advised by the facilitators.
 - ii. Involvement of the federal agencies is also in development.
- C. AESI support
 - Water rights list for each WID – targets ID'd by WIDs – While each WID is working on their target list to ensure few rights are lost in an adjudication the AWB is working with the WIDs to develop a range of options that could be presented to water right holders in which the WIDs could help them defend these rights.
 - [Menu of options and strategy to contact water right holders](#)
- D. Drainage Based Management
 - i. South Fork Targets and Actions report nearing completion.
 - ii. Workshop in Drayton and Bertrand in development, likely in April or May.
- E. Streamflow Restoration Grant application – surface to ground conversions, gw model testing grant application was submitted. Expect to hear if successful this summer.
- F. Stream Augmentation project in Dakota Creek – finish current Streamflow grant – Ecology has contacted us about a meeting concerning the water right application submitted for this project. It is doubtful all the red tape will be in place for augmentation this summer. Looking to complete it in 2023.

IV. Water Quality/Drainage/Flood

- A. Quality update – Fred noted each of these reports have been presented to the WIDs earlier this month. Test results have been good overall.
- B. DNA Project – funds approved by WIDs for more sampling – David has submitted one sample for analysis but the results were not nearly as clear as we would have hoped.
- C. Update 5-year programmatic HPA permits – Frank will be helping each of the WIDs renew their permits over the next 2 years.
- D. Interlocal Agreement on stormwater – BWID, NLWID, Lynden – Willamette Partnership is helping to facilitate. Initial work is in the west Lynden industrial area.
- E. Implications of recent flooding on water policy - Fred has been part of numerous meetings now that the flood discussion has moved from emergency response to planning for how to fix infrastructure to alleviate the disaster in the future. Rep. Shewmake is hosting a discussion later today. Henry will forward the invite.

V. Communication/Education

- A. Media Relations report – Fred noted that a white paper and accompanying video outlining a positive approach to water management was being release by Family Farmers in the next days.
- B. AWB flyer – responses to letter to landowners concerning rate increases – Henry reported only a few calls and the next result of most of them were commending the boards for their proactive work.
- C. Water Education workshop – in lieu of a Farmer Rally this spring Family Farmers is working on developing a workshop for farmers to provide them information preparing them for a water rights adjudication. It would involve Bill and Somach Law and is likely in the late May – mid June window.
- D. Meeting guests were invited to ask questions or provide comments. Kasey reiterated Ecology's commitment to collaborative solutions and involvement in the Solutions Table. Atul and Steve for the PUD encouraged the board to rely on the PUD as a partner in this work. Brandy introduced herself as the new WCD Manager.

VI. Adjournment - Next Meetings

Rich adjourned the meeting at 1:58. Next meeting is June 15th.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____