

# Ag Water Board

## Minutes of Regular Meeting March 15, 1-3 pm

Ag Water Board office, 1796 Front Street, Lynden

<u>AWB Board:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Enfield	<input type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Bedlington
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Vande Hoef	<input type="checkbox"/> Roger Bajema
<u>Alternates:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vern Vande Garde	<input type="checkbox"/> Terry Lenssen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe
<u>Others:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Gerald Baron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input type="checkbox"/> Karlee Deatherage
	<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

- I. Review & Approve December 14 Minutes  
Andy moved to approve the minutes, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- II. Financial/Administrative
  - A. Financial Reports – A Balance Sheet and P & L Statement were distributed and reviewed. \$46k on hand. The Board suggested a Transaction report indicating the actual payments would be useful in the future.
  - B. Approval of 2017 Contract with Bill Clarke – Andy moved approval of the Letter of Engagement with Clarke Law for 2017, Rod seconded, motion passed unanimously.
  - C. Approval of 2017 Contract with Whatcom Family Farmers – Rod moved approval of the April, 2017 – March, 2018 contract with Whatcom Family Farmers, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- III. Communication/Education
  - A. WFF Media Relations report – Gerald provide an activity report. Fred reviewed the actions and answered questions concerning what occurred. A letter to ReSources concerning their opposition to the CAFO permit was also discussed.
  - B. All WID Planning Session – March 20<sup>th</sup> – Each WID representative will try to get full participation in this exercise. It will include:
    - i. Reports from each WID
    - ii. Outline of Comprehensive Plans – template
    - iii. Making numerous Expert Resources available to pursue ideas and answer questions.
  - C. Does the AWB need a Plan in addition to the individual WID Plans? The consensus was it would come later after the WIDs identify their goals and activities. Some may naturally fall to the AWB to develop and implement.
  - D. Spring Newsletter – WID reports, President message – likely in late May. It should be discussed at the April WID meetings.
  - E. Government Relations – Fred reported on a WFF Committee meeting where focused tours for the County Council members was discussed. The group also hopes to develop short, well-articulated, Position Statements to better communicate our goals and directions.
- IV. Water Quality/Drainage

- A. Quality Monitoring report – Fred suggested that there may be some hopes that the Portage Bay shellfish beds may be fully opened by spring. Water quality tests have been quite good with occasional, notable, exceptions coming in from Canada.
- B. Ditch cleaning – partnership with County – AWB or WID mower/contract – It would be good for WID visibility. It should be discussed at the WID Planning session.
- C. Drainage – Programmatic 5 year permits – WCD assistance – also to be discussed at the WID Planning session.

V. Water Quantity/Supply

- A. Water Supply Committee report – Scott, Greg, Marty, Jeff
  - i. Legislative session update – ESSB 5239 is now in the House. It looks to be a “fix” for both the *Hirst* and *Foster* case roadblocks. A system of mitigation will need to be added to get House and Governor support.
  - ii. Water Position Statement & Strategy – Greg reported the committee is working on clarifying all the issues surrounding water supply.
  - iii. Proposal for hydrogeology Fact Sheet – Greg presented a proposal the Committee had requested from Chuck Lindsay after an extended discussion with him. The goal is to prepare a paper, maps, hydrographs, and presentations that would lead to a better understanding of the Nooksack Instream Flow Rule and how it might be constructively used. Andy moved to approve \$7,500 from the legal budget to support AESI in this project, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- B. Whatcom Water Supply Work Group – Henry noted the developing work plan for this group and the likelihood that the group would be helping to develop the grant funded project headed by Lummi to examine infrastructure in the basin that could be used to manage water more strategically.
- C. Water Exchange/Banking – a grant application was submitted to help on water banking development. We will not know if it is accepted until late July.

VI. Old Business

- A. Participation with WFF and Farm Bureau on CAO update – Fred reported that the work with the County Council is going well and that the revised CAO will not have a significantly different impact on farming. Scott will forward the Invoice he had received from Troy Lenssen at the Farm Bureau.

VII. Legal – Joint Defense Team, Litigation Management Committee

- A. Report on Portage Bay Partnership – Fred reported that the group was at an impasse on who are the acceptable Experts for developing enhanced Farm Plans. They are continuing to explore ways to find paths toward keeping the agreement in place.
- B. Future of Water Negotiations – Bill reported on discussions with the Lummi lobbyist in Olympia. There are no new developments on the federal negotiation request. Lummi is still expecting to be progressing towards this goal within the 5 area framework they presented in 2015.

VIII. Adjournment - Next Meeting - June 21