

Ag Water Board

Minutes of Regular Meeting March 15, 2023, 1 pm

Ag Water Board office, 204 Hawley Street, Lynden

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81529477026>

<u>AWB Board:</u>	<input type="radio"/> Andy Enfield	<input type="radio"/> Marty Maberry	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Brad Rader
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Jeff De Jong	<input checked="" 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 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="radio"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Elder	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Henry Bierlink
	<input type="radio"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Stoyka	<input type="checkbox"/> Paula Harris	<input type="checkbox"/> Dillon Honcoop
	<input type="radio"/> Jay Chennault	<input type="checkbox"/> Atul Deshmane	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Corina Cheever
	<input type="checkbox"/> Alex Jeffers	<input type="checkbox"/> Megan Evans	<input type="checkbox"/> Nichole Fink
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Hamilton	<input type="checkbox"/> Ramsey Kroft	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Reed
	<input type="radio"/> Katie Faber	<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler
	<input type="radio"/> Trevor Gearhart	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Gavin Willis	<input type="checkbox"/>

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Marty called the meeting to order at 1:03.

- I. Minutes - Review & Approve – December 14, 2022 meeting
Greg moved approval of the December 14 minutes, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- II. Financial/Administrative
 - A. Officer Election – current:
Brad – President, Marty – Vice, Rod – Sect/Treas
Greg moved to keep the same slate of officers, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - B. Financial Reports were reviewed.
 - C. Administrator shift, response to Financial review – Brad outlined the discussion s over staffing that had been occurring over the last months. Gavin is open to increased duties and Henry is moving towards retirement. By the fall Gavin will have transitioned into administering each of the WIDs and AWB. Henry will continue in a water supply consultant role for some time as Gavin gets eased into these duties as well in 2024-25.
 - D. WID/AWB Loan program – for SWID - \$190k was made available by 5 WIDs to be transferred into the WID/AWB Loan program. This will be loaned to the Sumas WID to address their cash flow issues. The Interlocal agreements point to having the funds available to the WIDs by the end of the year and there is a 60 day call back provision should any of the WIDs need the funds earlier.
- III. Water Quantity/Supply
 - A. Bill Clarke report

- i. Somach Law update – Bill encouraged the Board to maintain the contract with Somach Law in 2024. The current contract runs through 2023. The value of having Ramsey involved in the early adjudication phase and potential settlement talks was recognized.
- ii. 2023 Legislature
 - Conditions that would make adjudication less damaging – HB 1792 is through the House and in the Senate. No opposition has arisen.
 - Budget Proviso – application assistance and data collection – \$900k is being proposed for the operating budget. This will be decided in early April.
 - The Foster Task Force floated a bill to address the Foster problems. It died and the thoughts are to split up some of the actions desired into separate bills in the 2024 session.

B. Ecology

- i. Water Bank proposed by AWB received some push back from Ecology. They felt that much of what we wanted to do could be accomplished without a formal Water Bank. We will continue to pursue as the Bank may make these transfers more transparent and be able to handle new water sources like that from the deep aquifers.

C. County

- i. Local govt caucus initial meeting April 26th. We remain committed to pushing local coordination of actions to address water supply issues both in and out of stream. The out-of-stream users have never coordinated their ideas.
- ii. Project list for both WIDs and AWB to be presented to this out-of-stream water users caucus.
 - Drainage Based Management & Regional Water Supply Plan
 - [Phase 2 report summary](#) – page 12 point to significant action needs like storage.
 - Water Storage study task force – Fred attended and noted the strong opposition from the Tribes.
 - Several efforts from flooding to water rights converging on moving from study to action
 - Planning Unit – connecting land use planning with water supply plan

D. Stream Augmentation project in Dakota Creek – finish current Streamflow grant – Katie reported they need feedback from WDFW to address Ecology’s mitigation requirements. We will try again to get that feedback.

E. Irrigation funding support – WCD – Corina noted there was \$10m from the State to apply to irrigation projects. This could be for efficiency, surface to ground conversions, etc. She is meeting with John Culp who is administering this program statewide on the 28th. We will submit ideas for her to discuss with John.

IV. Water Quality/Drainage/Flood

- A. Quality Monitoring – it was noted that the County has had significant staff shortages and the regular quality reports are not as current.
- B. Update 5-year programmatic HPA permits – Frank – 2 completed
- C. Update on Floodplains by Design discussions and potential projects- Fred has been making these updates at the WID meetings.

- D. Flood relief Funding – Corina reminded the board that WCD still has \$30k for assistance with farmers that had flood recovery expenses. This money expires in June.
 - E. Riparian Buffers – Legislature – WCD work with WIDs – Frank has come to each of the WIDs at least once. Discussion have been fruitful leading to anticipated efforts to target high priority areas as something we can offer in the water settlement negotiations. We will wait until there is clarity on funds and standards before pushing this too quickly.
 - F. FEMA projects – Sumas and Bertrand – both remain in the early stages with no invoices submitted to FEMA yet.
 - G. [CLASS](#) – west Lynden stormwater – Fred noted a Hydraulics study would be initiated soon.
- V. Communication/Education – Fred, Gavin, and Dillon
- A. Media Relations report – main efforts have been in legislative education around buffers, adjudication, and labor.
 - B. REAL campaign – a recent video on the effect of mandatory buffers on small farms is being released.
- VI. New Business
- A. Invitation to serve on WRIA #1 Combined Review Team for Salmon Recovery grants – Gavin agreed to be our representative this year.
- VII. Adjournment - Next Meetings
- Brad adjourned the meeting at 2:28. Next meetings are: June 21, September 20, December 13

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____