

Ag Water Board

Meeting Minutes October 17, 2018, 1-3 pm

Ag Water Board office, 204 Hawley Street, Lynden

<u>AWB Board:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Enfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Bedlington
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff De Jong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Te Velde
<u>Alternates:</u>	<input 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 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"/> Gerald Baron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Stoyka	<input type="checkbox"/> Paula Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dillon Honcoop
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole Embertsen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Olsen	<input type="checkbox"/>

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

- I. Review & Approve June 20 Minutes – Scott called the meeting to order at 1:03. Andy moved to approve the June 20 minutes, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- II. Financial/Administrative
 - A. Financial Reports – the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss/Budget reports were reviewed. There were questions about how the financial relationship with Family Farmers on the building rent and conference room upgrade. Henry will check and report.
 - B. Adopt 2019 Budget – a draft budget of \$275k was reviewed. It was noted that there would be more need for Office budget because of the rent addition. \$10k was trimmed from the 2018 Legal budget and \$5k from Admin and Water Supply to make up for the \$20k addition to the Office/Misc. budget. Andy moved to adopt the adjusted budget for 2019, Marty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

WID	Office/ Misc	Admin	Legal	Water Supply	Quality & Drainage	Public Affairs	TOTAL
Bertrand	\$9,507	\$9,507	\$13,733	\$9,507	\$7,923	\$7,923	\$58,101
North Lynden	\$3,912	\$3,912	\$5,650	\$3,912	\$3,260	\$3,260	\$23,905
South Lynden	\$8,664	\$8,664	\$12,515	\$8,664	\$7,220	\$7,220	\$52,949
Drayton	\$4,901	\$4,901	\$7,079	\$4,901	\$4,084	\$4,084	\$29,949
Laurel	\$5,585	\$5,585	\$8,067	\$5,585	\$4,654	\$4,654	\$34,129
Sumas	\$12,431	\$12,431	\$17,956	\$12,431	\$10,359	\$10,359	\$75,967
	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$65,000	\$45,000	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$275,000

III. Water Quantity/Supply

- A. Bill Clarke Report – Bill updated the Board progress at the State level on the Foster Task Force. We need to get them a work plan for our surface to ground conversion pilot by the end of October.
- B. Adjudication – Bill noted that Ecology’s 2019 budget request included \$500k to begin looking at new areas for conducting a basin water right adjudication. This is likely because the Yakima (40 year) process is winding down. The areas of interest mentioned were Spokane and Nooksack. Bill felt they could make a compelling case to focus on Spokane and allow the process were are building to work before coming into this area with an adjudication.
- C. Water Bank concept – Bill reviewed the paper that was developed outlining the structure and logistics of a proposed Whatcom Water Bank. We see water as supplied by additional new water from entities like the PUD or the deep aquifers from Blaine/Birch Bay. This water would be wholesaled to the WIDs for allocation to their farmers. Internal WID water could also be made available by transfers. These could be temporary or permanent, seasonal, partial or whatever works for the farmer with extra supply and those in need of water. We see the WIDs as helping with developing the list of supply and demand and providing some assisting for landowners with processing the transfer requests. At this point we envision the financial transactions to be between farmers. He encouraged board members to call him to discuss the concept. Admittedly, there will be some challenging decisions ahead about how water received into a bank would be fairly distributed. The Snoqualmie WID is using an auction format.
- D. AWB dialogue with tribes – The Water Supply committee met with the Nooksacks on Monday and anticipating meeting with Lummi later next week. Marty noted that the Nooksacks shared our sense our urgency in addressing water management issues , a sense that isn’t always so clear from the agencies and other water caucuses.
- E. Hatcheries – The Nooksacks were supportive of more hatcheries. Andy noted that Doug Thomas of BCS was organizing a Hatchery Support Group that ag should be part of.
- F. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - i. 5 year Workplan adopted – Drainage Based Management included
 - ii. List of top mitigation for rural wells projects released with ag projects dominate among the highest rated projects.
 - iii. Building support for AG priorities with other caucuses – will be challenging the Planning Unit with the opportunity to support a grant application to fund ag projects at the October 24th meeting.
 - iv. Positions on fees, meters, and allowed amount for exempt wells – an opinion on these issues is required in the Plan addendum due in February. Ag’s position is to support the \$500 fee and the 3,000 gallon daily limit and suggest volunteer, but not required, metering.
- G. Ecology grant application – ag projects included

- i. Credit for AG when implementing stream projects- Henry felt the project centered around building a crediting system so that when ag does stream improvement projects there is a means to apply credits that can be used to help sole ag's water needs.
- ii. Water Bank/Exchange – likely to be developed through the Drainage based management process. We'd need this developed before we implemented the conversions or augmentation projects.
- iii. Drainage Based Mgt – begin this fall/winter – likely in Drayton and Bertrand. Ideas mentioned that should flow from these discussions include relief from seasonal closures, relinquishment, and the Annual Consumptive Quantity (ACQ) standard.
- iv. Draft Grant – an application is being developing incorporating DBM, augmentation, and conversions. Andy moved that AWB make this application subject to the lack of opposition from either Tribe, Mike seconded, motion carried unanimously.

IV. Water Quality/Drainage

- A. DNA project update – Fred, SLWID – Nicole summarize the goals and actions in the project which is to be completed by August, 2019. The CD will be collecting samples to add to the fecal reference catalogue.
- B. Drainage – Programmatic 5 year permits being developed in all WIDs. South Lynden, Laurel, North Lynden, and Sumas are completed and being used by the WIDs and farmers within the WID. Bertrand and Drayton are yet to be developed. Frank Corey is preparing these permits with his hours charged to the respective WIDs.
- C. Floodplain Management Plan – Fred, Jeff – Fred provided a brief update. Scott asked about farmer representation on the Flood Advisory Board. There are seats available and Jeff's seat will be termed out in January. Fred mentioned several farmers who were being challenged to participate.
- D. Canada – Fred noted that while monitoring information was improving with BC there were some recent high counts coming across the border. The Bertrand and North Lynden WIDs were sending a letter to Executive Louws encouraging him to keep the pressure on the State to keep strengthening the relationship with BC water quality efforts.
- E. Shellfish Beds in Portage Bay – recent data demonstrates a strong argument for opening the Spring closure in Portage Bay.
- F. CAFO permit – Fred noted that the PCHB would be releasing their opinion on the status of the new permit on Friday. Fred anticipated that pleasing the environmental community, Ecology, and the Dairy Federation would be difficult.

V. Communication/Education

- A. Media Relations report – Fred distributed a report on all the activities being done at Whatcom Family Farmers and Save Family Farmers.
- B. REAL campaign – a special education fund built on a \$25k donation from CHS has resulted in a newspaper insert and several videos illustrating issues that farmers are facing.

- C. AWB fall Newsletter – a draft President’s letter was reviewed. Board members felt that the connection between AWB and WFF should be made clear. \$75k from the AWB budget supports the work WFF is doing. WID reports will be collected soon and the newsletter will go out in early November.

VI. New Business

- A. Draft letter to County Council re: water rights on prospective PDR parcels – A draft letter explaining the Board’s concern that the most vulnerable parcels for development are those without water rights was approved to be sent to County Council.
- B. Board reorganization – Scott noted that we hadn’t elected a chair for the organization for awhile. He is willing to continue as Chair but is also willing to share this responsibility. Scott was reelected as Chair for 2019 by board consensus.

VII. Adjournment - Next Meeting

December 19

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____