

Ag Water Board

Regular Meeting June 17, 2020, 1 pm

Ag Water Board office, 204 Hawley Street, Lynden

Zoom Meeting ID: 833 5554 1882 Password: 396679

<u>AWB Board:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Andy Enfield (S)	<input type="checkbox"/> Marty Maberry (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Bedlington
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Boxx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff De Jong (SL)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Te Velde (NL)
<u>Alternates:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vern Vande Garde (B)	<input type="checkbox"/> Terry Lenssen	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Appel (L)	<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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Gerald Baron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Eisses	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Stoyka	<input type="checkbox"/> Paula Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis
	<input type="checkbox"/> Loren Vander Yacht	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler	<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Perkow	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Elder	<input type="checkbox"/> Katherine Beeler
	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault	<input type="checkbox"/> Meg Harriss	<input type="checkbox"/> Karlee Deatheridge

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

- I. Review & Approve [March 18 Minutes](#) - VP Marty convened the meeting in light of Scott's absence. Jeff moved to approve the March 18th minutes, Vern seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- II. Financial/Administrative
 - A. Financial Reports – Henry reviewed the Balance Sheet and Budget Profit and Loss Report. No inconsistencies with the budget were noted. Jeff moved to approve the financial report, Vern seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - B. Ecology Grant - \$150k for 2 years
 - Develop Project Lists – surface to ground and augmentation potential sites
 - Progress toward implementing 2 conversions, 1 augmentation project
 - C. [New Ecology application – capital projects to support DBM](#) – 4 from Whatcom were reviewed. Ours is to finish the capital costs on the conversions and augmentation projects.
 - D. [Agreement with County Flood Board](#)- The FLIP grant has funds to support Fred's time working on behalf of farmers. The best way to provide these funds is through an agreement with the Ag Water Board. The AWB will be reimbursed for 80% of Fred's time helping with the Flood Plan. These funds will build up in the AWB accounts with hopes this may reduce future WID contributions to the annual AWB budget. Rich moved approval of the Agreement, Jeff seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- III. Water Quantity/Supply
 - A. Bill Clarke report
 - i. In-stream flow rule adopted – allows for a bit more flexibility in projects that enhance stream flows.
 - ii. Water banking task force – a statewide effort to examine how water banks can and should function

iii. Upcoming legislative agenda – Bill saw 1) adjudication decision – not likely to receive new funding when State cutbacks due to COVID are extreme, 2) Water Banking ideas, and 3) finalizing the report of the Foster task force.

B. Adjudication debate – Bill summarized recent actions and discussions:

- AWB position shared by Bellingham, PUD, private wells
- Debate over strategy to get County to take a position against adjudication
- Adjudication supported only by Tribes and environmental caucus
- Ecology position likely by July, meeting with Director in May
- Bill offered his time as a resource to answer questions on what the results of an adjudication may be

C. Regional Water Supply task force selected Aspect Consulting as contractor – Henry noted the group had its second meeting yesterday. This was the first meeting with the newly hired consultant team. They have a lot of learning to do in our area.

IV. Water Quality/Drainage/Flood

A. Quality update – Meg noted that recent months’ results were generally good with an occasional “hot spot”. She reported that communication with BC has improved.

B. DNA Project – Henry reported that all 6 WIDs were helping to fund the Avian element \$20k budget. Fred has been connecting with Kent at Exact. They expect work this fall with a report by the end of the year.

C. Drainage projects – Fred is coordinating with the County road dept. NLWID is exploring the potential of receiving mitigation credits for removing old, unused culverts.

D. Update on Floodplains by Design discussions and potential projects – overlap with DBM is anticipated.

E. Ag Engineer need – COVID has put a stop to the CD’s planned assessment request for now. The AWB sub-committee has not met.

V. Communication/Education

A. Media Relations report – Gerald reviewed three priority areas for the media team:

- i. adjudication education – few understand what an adjudication is and even fewer grasp its potential consequences. The Fish need Farms and Farms need Fish campaign will communicate the importance of averting an adjudication.
- ii. EPA nitrate issues – Save Family Farming has been in the leadership of the statewide campaign to provide factual information on this issue that threatens the viability of dairies.

B. REAL campaign – the Real Food/Real People campaign keeps producing videos and social media that highlight the facts around agriculture and the famers engaged in it.

VI. Adjournment - Next Meetings

September 16

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____