

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – December 11, 2023, 2 PM

Board Attending:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vern Vande Garde	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Schoneveld	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pete Vlas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Bedlington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Ebe	

Others Attending:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trevor Gearhart	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Buys	<input type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey
<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Chapman	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Reed
<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Chennault	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber	<input type="checkbox"/> Rud Browne

x – present o – absent with notice t – teleconference p – proxy

Vern called the meeting to order at 2:05.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. November 13 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Scott moved to approve the consent agenda. Pete seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Board noted a request related to the payment voucher to get regular updates from USDA on beaver trapping activities.

2. Administration

- a. Gavin read out the proposed resolution related to designating a new auditing officer.
- b. Scott moved to approve RESOLUTION 2023-03 AUDITING OFFICER DESIGNATION. Pete seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Gavin provided a summary of a proposed procurement policy, and read out the proposed resolution related to adopting that policy.
- d. Scott moved to approve RESOLUTION 2023-04 ADOPTION OF A PROCUREMENT POLICY. Pete seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Henry provided a summary of the WID audit. There were no audit findings for 2020-2022. The exit letter included two items to address, related to meeting frequency, and categorization of expense items in BARS reporting.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Henry gave a short update on the proposed joint Streamflow Restoration Grant application from WMB partners, including AWB.
 - i. Discussion followed about feasibility of linear wells in some areas of the lower Nooksack floodplain.

4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Gavin provided an update on FEMA projects.

- i. 2 projects awaiting final review, and one in project development phase. Lavender Ditch project was recently signed off by EMD.
 - ii. Now that a new procurement policy has been adopted, work on the Parklyn Drainpipe project can proceed.
 - b. Fred provided an update on flooding issues. The county is under pressure to begin projects now that they have made significant progress on their modeling.
 - c. Fred provided an update on CLASS. Engineers working on the modeling are requesting additional funding.
 - i. The datasets that are available for precipitation are not as comprehensive as they expected, and don't cover the entirety of the Bertrand Basin.
 - ii. Early modeling returns suggest that opening up the culverts on Mouw Ditch will decrease peak flows at Rathbone Rd due to hydrograph shifting
 - d. Ditch mowing seems to have been well done this year.

5. Water Quality

- a. A water quality update was provided by email. Numbers are looking good.
 - i. Portage Bay numbers are at the lowest that they have been in 20 years; cautiously optimistic that shellfish beds could be opened up even more.

6. Education / Communications

- a. Website – bertrandwid.com
 - i. Website upgrade is tabled for now – the WID is exempt from OPMA website requirements due to having less than 10 staff members.

7. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None.

8. Next Meetings

- a. The next meeting is January 8th.

Vern adjourned the meeting at 3:33 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____