

Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – February 10, 2025

Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Greg Ebe Verne Vandegarde Mike Schoneveld Scott Bedlington	Pete Vlas

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Tania Grim	Ag Water Board
Frank Corey	Whatcom Conservation District
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Sarah Faubion (t)	AESI
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers
Ethan Brown (t)	Willamette Partnership

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Jon Hutchings	City of Lynden Public Works

Proceedings

LHS FFA Ag Issues team presented on issues of ground water nitrates connected to dairy operations.

Verne called meeting to order at 2:19

1. Consent Agenda

- The agenda was reviewed
- Minutes from the January meeting was reviewed.
- The financial report was reviewed.
- Voucher B.Gen.0225 in the amount of \$10,746.84 was reviewed.
- Mike moved to approve the consent agenda. Greg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. FEMA Projects

- Gavin provided a FEMA update. Still awaiting ITB approval for Farm Field debris project. Parklyn Drainpipe project is ready to do final closeout.
- There is work being done with commerce on relief funding from HUD.

3. CLASS

- a. Ethan provided a CLASS update.
 - i. Meeting on February 5 had attendees from NRCS, City of Lynden, Whatcom County, NSEA, Nooksack tribes and local farmers.
 - ii. Still need to work out permitting requirements, sizing of culverts to handle overflow from other basins and funding sources, especially for Rathborne Rd.
- b. There is a desire to have Rathborne Rd culvert plugged as soon as possible. Once the H&H study is finalized, CLASS team can pursue early action options there.

4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin shared a legislative update provided via email by Bill.
 - i. SB 5212, which would allow pre-code water users without a statement of claim to file in the adjudication, is on the Senate's consent calendar, and will likely see floor action within the next few weeks.
 - ii. Bill met with the new water resources staff from the Governor's office and expresses the need for more collaboration to lead to a settlement process.
- b. The AWB meeting with federal lobbyists was discussed.
- c. A member shared a Food insecurity group is putting pressure on ecology to provide funding for increased irrigation water supply, including in Western Washington.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance was discussed. County roads department has indicated that they do not believe that it is their responsibility to maintain roadside ditches.
- b. A member mentioned Ebenezer school keeps flooding. This has not happened prior to this year. Discussion followed on local drainage in that area and potential causes.
- a. Frank gave an update on buffers. SCC buffer program is seeing some delays.

6. Water Quality

- a. Trevor provided a water quality update through email. Numbers look good. There were some high marine counts in November and December.

7. OPMA

- a. Gavin provided OPMA training to Mike.

8. Next Meeting

- a. March 10

Meeting adjourned at 3:49pm

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by

