

# Bertrand Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – May 13, 2024

## Attendees

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

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Vern VandeGarde Scott Bedlington Greg Ebe Pete Vlas	Mike Schoneveld

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Trevor Gearhart	Whatcom Conservation District
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers
Bill Clarke (t)	Clarke Law
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Katie Faber (t)	AESI
Jordan Widener (t)	Widener & Associates
Ross Widener (t)	Widener & Associates

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Mark Stremmer (t)	Whatcom County Council
Jon Hutchings (t)	City of Lynden Public Works

## Proceedings

Vern called the meeting to order 1:58 pm.

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes of April 8 meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports and voucher in the amount of \$8,542.25 were reviewed.
- d. Greg moved to approve the consent agenda. Scott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Bill provided an adjudication update. The adjudication was filed on May 1. ECY identified up to 32,000 individuals that may be party to adjudication. Note for motion for June 26<sup>th</sup> in Whatcom County Superior Court, however there is no actual motion included with their filing, so it's not clear what the motion hearing will be for. Bill noted that filing was shorter than expected.
  - i. Bill will be asking the court / ECY to set filing deadlines in Feb/Mar to create a schedule more compatible with agriculture.
- b. Question from Jay about draft claims forms process. Bill stated we should know soon how ECY will approach that.

- c. Bill will be providing update on adjudication issues for ag-focused Olympia personnel later in the week.
- d. About a dozen people have signed up for water rights office hours sessions so far. First round of appointments are on May 31 and June 12.

### **3. Drainage / Habitat / Flood**

- a. Gavin noted that EMD has approved the procurement policy for FEMA projects, so procurement for the Parklyn Drainpipe project will begin shortly.
- b. Jordan presented a proposal for project prioritization. Scott noted need for more urgent approach to Fishtrap Creek Dike. Gavin and Jordan will look into options for adjusting timelines for that work.
  - i. Board supported proposed order for project completion.
- c. Fred provided a CLASS update. Currently awaiting county Whatcom County Council approval of FLIP pass-through funding for remaining WSE work, expected to get that approval on May 21.
  - i. Also awaiting NRCS funding for Willamette Partnership to continue their participation in the program.

### **4. Water Quality**

- a. Trevor provided WQ results. A few hotspots, but no direct connections to dairy at any of the sites.
- b. Long term WQ results in Portage Bay are as good as they have ever been. However, concerns about continuing increase in fecal counts coming across the border in Bertrand Creek.
- c. Whatcom CD has funding available for cover crops, tied to the fiscal year so must be spent before June 30.

### **5. Next Meeting**

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for June 10.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_

