

Ag Water Board

Special Meeting | **Minutes** | January 23, 2025, 10:00am

204 Hawley St, Lynden WA

Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via teleconference, “a” indicates alternate representative

Board Members			
Bertrand	Vern Vandegarde (a)	North Lynden	Mitch Moorlag (a)
Drayton	Greg Ebe (a)	South Lynden	Jeff DeJong
Laurel	Rich Appel (a)	Sumas	Terry Lenssen (a)

Staff, Consultants, and Other Members	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Tania Grim	Ag Water Board
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers
Ramsey Kropf	Somach Simmons & Dunn
Aaron Ferguson	Somach Simmons & Dunn
Lane Dickson	The Ferguson Group
Mark Limbaugh	The Ferguson Group
Henry Bierlink	Ag Water Board

Proceedings

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.
2. Agenda was reviewed.
 - a. Agenda was reviewed
 - b. Rich moved to approve agenda. Greg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Election of Officers
 - a. Board discussed previous officers and whether to reappoint them.
 - b. Greg moved to re-appoint Brad as president, Marty as vice-president, and Jeff as secretary-treasurer.
 - c. Terry seconded Greg's nominations.
 - d. Brad Rader was unanimously elected to President by voice.
 - e. Marty Maberry was unanimously elected to Vice-President by voice.
 - f. Jeff DeJong was unanimously elected to Secretary and Treasurer by voice.
4. Federal Lobbying
 - a. Mark and Lane provided an overview of the federal lobbying process and our delegation.

- b. Board discussed making a trip to DC in the fall. Gavin will coordinate with Mark and Lane to identify exact timeline.
5. Adjudication assistance for landowners.
- a. Gavin provided an overview of work completed in 2024 to provide technical assistance to farmers. Board supported expanding those offerings in 2025.
 - b. Gavin provided an update on current legislative work to support farmers. SB 5212 seems to be moving forward, perhaps with a modification to include a subordination clause. Gavin will continue to work with Bill to monitor progress.
6. Water rights settlement
- a. Ramsey provided an overview of the water rights settlement process, including settlement elements that have been adopted in other basins across the west.
7. Next scheduled meeting will be held March 19.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:04pm.

Submitted by Gavin Wittis

Approved by: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Wittis', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.