

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – May 14, 2024

Attendees

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

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Keith Boon Brad Rader (t) Al Sytsma Andy Enfield (t)	Terry Lenssen

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Katie Faber (t)	AESI
Bill Clarke (t)	Clarke Law
David Haggith	N3 Consulting
Elizabeth Hayes	Whatcom Conservation District

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Alan Chapman (t)	Whatcom Conservation District

Proceedings

Brad designated chair responsibilities to Al for the meeting.

Al called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. April 9 minutes were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports and vouchers in the amount of \$43,940.88 were reviewed.
- d. Keith moved to approve the consent agenda. Brad seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Proposed procurement policy was reviewed.
- b. Keith moved to pass Resolution 2024-03 – Adoption of a Procurement Policy. Brad seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Bill provided an adjudication update. The adjudication was filed on May 1, but the filing was less detailed than many expected. The filing lists approximately 32,000 defendants. The first hearing for the case will be on June 26th.

4. FEMA Projects

- a. The work on the Lower Sumas project is underway. Gavin will be meeting with Dale soon to review progress.

- b. The procurement policy that was previously approved in the meeting has already been reviewed and approved by EMD for FEMA project procurements.
- c. Prioritization of remaining projects was discussed. Doing the Kneuman Road Ditch project soon in order to get reimbursement for the emergency expenditures on that project would be ideal. Board also expressed a desire for the Upper Sumas and Saar Creek projects to have a high priority. Others noted that flood damage impacts in lower Johnson Creek have intensified damages from other smaller events in the meantime, and it may be beneficial to move that project along soon as well, although drainage mapping issues may confound those efforts.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. WQ results not great. Mainstem Johnson and Sumas were fine this month, but some of the smaller tribs were problematic. USDA has been doing several inspections in the Sumas area, and have ruffled a few feathers.
- b. CD has cover crop funds available, must be spent by end of June.

6. Water Quality

- a. David provided a water quality update. WQ results this past month were not great.
 - i. Johnson Creek and the Sumas River had good results, but some of the smaller tributaries had problematic numbers.
 - ii. It was noted that USDA has been doing several inspections in the Sumas area, and have ruffled a few feathers. However, one of those inspectors has been reassigned.
- b. Elizabeth noted that the Conservation District has some funds available for cover crop seeds that must be spent by the end of the state fiscal year (June 30th).

7. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11.

Meeting adjourned at 1:41pm

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

