

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: September 14, 2021 Meeting, 1 pm

AWB Conference Room and Videoconference

Zoom Meeting ID: 881 6386 0548 Passcode 247973

<u>o</u> Terry Lenssen	<u>t</u> Andy Enfield	<u>x</u> Keith Boon
<u>o</u> Alan Sytsma	<u>x</u> Brad Rader	
<u>t</u> Bill Clarke	<u>x</u> Henry Bierlink	<u>x</u> Fred Likkel
<u>o</u> Alan Chapman	<u>x</u> Jay Chennault	<u>x</u> Scarlett Graham

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:03.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of June 8 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
S0921	Ag Water Board	Sept, Oct. AWB	\$16,309.28
S0921	Enduris	self insurance	\$2,952.00
S0921	N3	Water monitoring	\$2,133.50
S0921	Exact Scientific	DNA project	\$5,000.00
		TOTAL VOUCHER	\$26,394.78

Keith moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Andy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Annexation Areas

- a. [Minaker Road](#)
- b. [North Telegraph](#)
- c. [Trapline](#) – only one signature so far. Brad will check with Dave DW.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. AWB Water Supply issues - Bill
 - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report indicates parties are not “ripe”, suggests a “solutions table”
 - Adjudication – seems hard to stop, exploring ways to mitigate the damage
 - Legal preparation
 - Executive sessions for WID Boards – pending litigation – at Oct mtg.
 - Working with private attorneys to find the most effective structure to help all farmers with water right concerns.
 - Standing in adjudication – have WIDs seek interest in a water right
- b. AESI contract – Jay
 - Water right list – AESI has prepared a list of water rights in the Sumas WID and is working on merging this list with the current parcel layer so that the Board will be able to see the current owner of the water right. There are 281 groundwater rights and 75 surface rights. Goal is to ensure that all rights are in use and fully prepared for adjudication. We will examine the rights where use is not as clear or use is minimal as potential candidates for acquisition, transfers, leases, etc. Reconciling the Ecology database and County Parcel layer is a current challenge AESI is working through.
 - Request for infrastructure projects – \$20m targeted to infrastructure in Whatcom, other federal funds are flowing through grant programs like those under the Bureau of Reclamation. AESI prepared a spreadsheet describing the ideas for projects that have been considered in the past 30 years. The board was asked to review them and add new ideas that might be advanced. A rough budget was applied for each project.

- c. AWB Budgeting – the initial 2022 AWB budget will be drafted next week for the WIDs to consider in October. Investing into the legal work needed to protect all ag water rights is needed but not yet fully understood. Getting an idea of what may be an acceptable range for the AWB legal work was discussed.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance
 - a. Trapline area update – Brad is in contact with Dave DW.
 - b. Clearbrook culvert – Keith reported the issues have been addressed.
 - c. Kneuman Road – Keith reported that the City of Sumas is making progress on drainage in the area.
- b. Beaver trapping contract – Henry has heard no response from repeated efforts to contact Travis to establish a contract between the SWID and Critter Control. Brad will check on Travis.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – generally good. Board directs David to cut back to very basic level and take samples only when it is clear that we need to know the results.
- b. DNA project – Avian project – Kent will present the results at the South Lynden WID later today. Fred reported that there is a sense that we are making progress on isolating sources.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – best news is that data is suggesting a rainfall based closure rather than a calendar closure and that DOH is beginning to consider this.
- d. Report on landowner contacts – David is working with at least one landowner.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. www.sumaswid.com
- b. Weather stations are installed and generating data.
- c. Farmer meeting in Sumas – consider having the November 9th meeting there.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50. Next meeting is October 12.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____