

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: February 8, 2022 Meeting, 1pm

Videoconference – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81334092540?pwd=THloRFdEWVdNM0xSN3BUMmRjJHRkUT09>  
 Meeting ID: 813 3409 2540 Passcode: 197448

<u>  x  </u> Terry Lenssen	<u>  t  </u> Andy Enfield	<u>  o  </u> Keith Boon
<u>  x  </u> Alan Sytsma	<u>  x  </u> Brad Rader	
<u>  t  </u> David Haggith	<u>  x  </u> Henry Bierlink	<u>  x  </u> Fred Likkel
<u>  t  </u> Jay Chennault	<u>  t  </u> Katie Faber	<u>  </u> Frank Corey

*x = present                      o = absent with notice                      t = teleconference*

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:07.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 11 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
S0222	AWB	January, February AWB	\$14,577.06
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$14,577.06</b>

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water Supply Team update
  - Legal – Water Supply Team advocating for contract with legal team
  - Would focus on building alternatives to adjudication – federal, settlement options
  - Funds would come from the AWB legal reserve fund but more may be needed from each WID to fund the 2022 contract. The budget for additional \$30k was reviewed with the Sumas WID contributing \$8,388 from its Project Fund. The board recognized this was a possibility at budgeting time and was Ok with making this transfer should the AWB make a formal request.
- b. Solutions Table
  - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating a March 2022 start
  - Linking with potential proviso supporting federal involvement in water mgt. (flood, supply, habitat)
  - Legislature seems amenable to expanding the scope of the Solutions Table and proving more funding.
- c. Project List
  - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted for \$8.5 million over 7 years. We expect it will be competitive and that we will hear by late summer.
- d. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - The final review of groundwater rights was conducted. Jay and Henry will prepare a list of water rights where we are uncertain if the rights will be adequately defended and suggest some options the WID board may consider for communicating with these parcel owners.
  - Next step will be to determine who and how to contact.
- e. Letters of Non-Compliance – it was noted that Ecology has been sending letters to farmers where the maps indicate no Place of Use coverage yet the field is being irrigated. It is unclear if this is a new policy where Ecology is surveying fields or if this is still complaint based as it has been in the past. Ecology is not fining (yet) but urging action to rectify this issue.

### **III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. Flood response
  - Support for a media story with flood images and stories – Bertrand & Drayton agreed to add \$5k to the \$10k approved by the Sumas WID. Fred has been working with the Small Cities who are highly motivated towards action. He is seeking good contacts in BC to expand the discussion.
- b. Ditch maintenance
  - Siper drainage concerns – Joel’s note to the board about this drainage concern highlighted the numerous post flood drainage issues in the WID. Brad suggested inviting Joel to attend a future meeting to brainstorm how we can help each other to address these kinds of concerns. It was suggested to invite Joel for the final 30 minutes of the March meeting and invite the S Lynden WID to come in 30 minutes early.
  - FEMA flood assistance – a webinar discussion is occurring at several times this week that board members were suggested to participate in. We are exploring if FEMA funds can flow through the WID or Drainage Districts for post-flood ditch maintenance.

### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – David provided the most recent testing results. January numbers were far better than late 2021. Even with far less cows in the drainage the Sumas system has some challenges.
- b. DNA testing – David has obtained a good set of samples that may be able to isolate the avian contribution to fecal numbers.

### **V. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.sumaswid.com](http://www.sumaswid.com)
- b. AWB flyer and draft cover letter – 309 letters to be mailed. Final edits were made.
- c. Family Farmers Rally will be set in March or April once more clarity on the Water Supply Team legal contract is in place.

### **VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Terry adjourned the meeting at 2:26. Next meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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