

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 10, 2020 Meeting, 1 - 3 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Terry Lenssen Andy Enfield Keith Boon
 Alan Sytsma Brad Rader

David Haggith Henry Bierlink Fred Likkel
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of February 10 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

AWB	March, April	\$12,813.94
State Auditor	2019 Assessment Audit	\$652.60
	TOTAL - Month	\$13,466.54

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management pilots are meeting in Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton.
 - [RFP out for data synthesis](#) - summarize data for each pilot and suggest management solutions for the group to consider. Deadline is March 16th.
- b. Adjudication discussions expressing our concerns with:
 - County Executive
 - Other partners
 - Watershed Management Board – March 16th
- c. Application for grant to complete more projects identified in DBM process as developed in the pilots.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Pangborn Creek project – all seems to be progressing toward the planting this spring.
- b. FLIP opportunities – Fred noted the Steering Committee had recommended \$100k to be applied to the Duffner tidegate project in the Bertrand WID. This sends a good message about future ag projects in the floodplain. Fred noted that the recent flooding has generated more discussion about addressing Reach 5 which impacts the SWID.
- c. Ditch maintenance – flooding along Clearbrook Road was discussed. A pre-1960's drainage system had been maintained by the Radders for years but is not being maintained any longer. It appears it is in the County's road right-of-way. Several other drainage concerns were mentioned. Fred will arrange a meeting with County PW for all WIDs to discuss drainage in the next months.
- d. Culvert replacement options
<https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/fishpassage/index.html>
Board members reviewed the yellow (partial barrier) or red (full barrier) triangles in the WID. A goal is to help facilitate culvert replacements which could be used as "banked mitigation" for future ditch maintenance projects. No obvious projects were identified for the 2020 Project budget.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David presented recent results which were discussed. A few areas of concern. Manure spreading on snow in BC was noted as this area drained back into our WID.
- b. DNA project – sampling to support further development of this project was considered but the more ideal approach would be to have a full plan for furthering this work in place and

find the grants to support it. The CD has meet with Exact to discuss this. They are developing a module approach to advance this work.

- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred noted that many farmers had been “termed out” of these boards leaving many vacancies. They are attending as non-voting members to keep the mission moving in the right direction.
- d. Report on landowner contacts – David has made a few contacts. The County asked our opinion on a non-dairy livestock operation. The Board suggested the CREP program might be a useful tool in this situation.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website is regularly updated @ www.sumaswid.com
- b. WCD Engineer support position – The Laurel WID is suggesting that farmers might consider either fully or partially funding an ag technician/engineer from WID generated dollars. This will be discussed at the AWB meeting. This approach was judged preferable to supporting the parcel assessment idea promoted by the WCD Board. It is likely that AWB will appoint a committee to study the options related to our partnership with the WCD. Board members were encouraged to complete the WCD’s survey located at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVNTT6Z>.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

April 14
May 12
June 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____