

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: February 2, 2023 Meeting, 11:30 am

### Bob's Burger and Brew, Sumas

<u>  x  </u> Terry Lenssen	<u>  x  </u> Andy Enfield	<u>  o  </u> Keith Boon
<u>  x  </u> Alan Sytsma	<u>  x  </u> Brad Rader	
<u>  x  </u> David Haggith	<u>  x  </u> Henry Bierlink	_____ Fred Likkel
<u>  x  </u> Doug Visser	<u>  x  </u> Marv Vreugdenhil	<u>  x  </u> Marty Vreugdenhil
<u>  x  </u> Sunny Aulakh	<u>  x  </u> Gavin Willis	<u>  x  </u> Larry Van Middendorp
<u>  x  </u> Dean Postma	<u>  x  </u> Adrian Vreugdenhil	<u>  x  </u> Jay Van Middendorp
<u>  x  </u> Mark Bosscher	<u>  x  </u> Dave Heeringa	<u>  x  </u> Dallas Moore _____

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

Brad called the meeting to order at 11:35.

#### I. **Ag Water Board/Water Supply** – Henry summarized the current status of the planned adjudication and efforts to mitigate its effects. Brad noted that our attorney, Bill Clarke, would provide advice to WID owners as to how to best respond to the adjudication. Contact Henry for Bill's number.

- a. Water supply update
  - Ecology adjudication budget request and AWB counter proposal
  - County led "Solutions Table"
  - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – forming an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - AWB establishing – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#)
  - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#)
  - Follow-up with key acquisition candidates

#### II. **Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. FEMA update – Sunny explained the relationship between the City and the WID. The WID is the FEMA applicant with the City handling the contracting and payments. Work was done on Knueman Ditch and Bone Creek last year. We are looking at a survey of the Sumas River and initial work on Bone and Johnson Creeks this spring with the hope of getting the first phase of this project completed this fall.

Henry distributed a draft "Right of Entry Agreement" that we will need to have with owners of parcels to complete the surveys and do future cleanout work. He encouraged feedback on the form before we finalize it.
- b. Ditch maintenance – projects needing attention in 2023 – Both with the County and road ditches and drainage corridors.
- c. Buffer requirements – Gavin updated the members on the current status of the State's efforts to promote habitat.
- d. Beaver trapping – Primarily done by the DIDs but could be helped by the WID. The confluence of the Sumas River and Johnson Creek was discussed.

#### III. **Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – David reviewed the numbers from the sampling that N3 provides for the WID. There are both locations and seasons that are of concern. He noted that WSDA had been slow in testing and enforcing on dairies due to staff shortages but that is being remedied and with numbers in the Nooksack system looking quite good it is logical that the Sumas may be an area of emphasis in the near future.

#### IV. **Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Brad adjourned the meeting at 1:01. Next meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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