

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 8, 2022 Meeting, 1pm

Videoconference – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87235409182?pwd=YVEyRGhHSUFEN2JLeEhOL3RjNTItZz09>
 Meeting ID: 872 3540 9182 Passcode: 079437

<u> </u> x <u> </u> Terry Lenssen	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Andy Enfield	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Keith Boon
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Alan Sytsma	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Brad Rader	
<u> </u> x <u> </u> David Haggith	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Fred Likkel
<u> </u> t <u> </u> Kelly Hamilton	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Joel Ingram	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Frank Corey
<u> </u> t <u> </u> Jay Chennault	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Gina Miller	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Katie Faber
<u> </u> t <u> </u> Steve Fox	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Mike Horat	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Steve Arnold

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

Terry called the meeting to order at 1:03.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of [February 8 Minutes](#)
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
S0322	WA State Auditor	assessment audit	\$1,135.50
S0322	N 3	water monitoring	\$559.00
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$1,694.50

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

II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
 - AWB contracted with Somach Law - focus on building alternatives to adjudication – federal, settlement options
 - Legal – Water Supply Team members preparing contract with same legal team
- b. Solutions Table
 - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating a May/June start
 - Linking with proviso supporting federal involvement in water mgt. (flood, supply, habitat)
 - Project List – to be offered at Solutions Table as advised by the facilitators.
 - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted
- c. Water Right acquisition candidates – 34 sorted by:
 - *Certificates with 4 or fewer land owners, sorted by Qa from highest to lowest.*
 - *Claims with 4 or fewer land owners, sorted by irrigation acreage from highest to lowest*
 - *Certificates with 4 or more land owners, sorted by Qa from highest to lowest*
 - *Claims with 4 or fewer land owners, sorted by irrigation acreage from highest to lowest*
 - Determine who and how to contact – the list was reviewed in part beginning with the most water and least difficulty. The board helped identify who would be the best contact for each of these rights. Lead contacts were made when possible.
 - Menu of options for landowners – Henry, Bill, and Jay are working on a menu of options that could be presented to the water right contacts. Our first priority remains having the landowner defend their own right and keep using it for irrigating their land. But if they are not likely to do so we want to present them multiple options for how the WID can assist.

III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Flood response

- FEMA application for ditch cleaning – Henry noted there were several steps in this process and we are progressing through them. He asked for pictures and other documentation of needed actions to support our application.
- b. Ditch maintenance
 - Osgood Rd. drainage concerns – Joel reviewed the issues on the base of the Sumas River coming off the mountain at Osgood Road. The landowners there need some help both short-term and long-term. The WID could use its resources to help but does not have the funds to invest a large amount in any drainage project. Al moved to allocate up to \$500 to support Frank in working with Joel to develop a short and long term plan for the area and potentially use our 5-year permit to help, Brad seconded, motion carried unanimously. The short term issue is cleaning the sediments caused by the flooding, long-term concern is a sediment trap and the alluvial fan in the area.
 - County has Conchman, Jones, Rock, Telegraph, and Morgan road ditches on their summer cleaning schedule.
 - Lonni at Public Works has taken a new position. Christina is replacing her. This position has been the main support for the Drainage and Diking Districts.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David noted some troubling results in early March.
- b. DNA testing – David received some results but they were vague.
- c. Report on landowner contacts – David has made many landowner contacts and communicated the testing results to them.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.sumaswid.com
- b. AWB flyer and draft cover letter – 309 letters mailed, 2/27
- c. Family Farmers Rally – March 29th (Cancelled)

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Brad adjourned the meeting at 3:30. Next meetings are April 12, May 10, June 14.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____