

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 11, 2017 Meeting, 1pm – 3pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input type="checkbox"/> Terry Lenssen	<input type="checkbox"/> Andy Enfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keith Boon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Perry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Haggith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Mackay

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of February 14 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1				
2017 Assessments Received		\$7,005.16		
Fund Balance 3/1/2017		\$46,013.27		
Fund Balance 4/1/2017		\$51,916.73		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$51,916.73
Outstanding bills:				\$16,565.86
Ag Water Board <i>March, April AWB Admin</i>			\$12,564.00	
Ag Water Board <i>website fees</i>			\$225.86	
FHB Consulting <i>Comp Plan</i>			\$2,040.00	
N3 <i>Water quality monitoring</i>			\$1,736.00	
End of Month Balance				\$35,350.87
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	75,384	25,128.00	50,256.00	
Projects	13,110	4,592.00	8,518.00	
Insurance/Adm	4,191	225.86	3,965.14	
	92,685	29,945.86	62,739.14	

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

II. Administrative

- A. Review and approve Priority Issue and Activity lists

Accomplishments	Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
Thorough water testing...added sites	1. Water Quality	Continued water quality testing	
Interesting monitoring information			
Share water quality data with farmers. Outreach lunch in Sumas to take our work to the people in the WID...		Consider a Fall meeting with landowners like was done in February	
Met with RESources to work on quality monitoring			
	2. Water Rights	Support the AWB	

Mapping project with help from Heather	3. Agricultural protection		
Looking at a management plan for the WID with available funding	4. Communication, Outreach, Education	Outreach and education with our land owners	
Tour scheduled cancelled because of snow...when Keith is available to see which potential projects are out there			
Did drainage work with local drainage district		Ditch cleaning project	
Looking at prioritizing projects			
Looking at the various areas to do work		Work with Lane Stremler on culvert replacements	

The issues and priorities developed at the All WID Planning meeting were reviewed and amended.

- B. Update Comprehensive Plan – report from Heather on progress to date on the Comprehensive Plan. Heather suggested that the Board concentrate on Table 2 which correlates goals with action plans. It should be reviewed and approved before we place it on the website as a draft plan. Brad suggested the board first make sure the draft does not include any messages that we don't agree with or want to make public. Then the board will work through the table priority by priority over the next meetings to fill in the gaps.

Heather suggested that once the plan was placed on the website it would be a living document that would be edited periodically: 1) based on board actions, 2) by staff as they become aware of information supporting board priorities, and 3) by consultants, as needed and determined by the board, to fill in more substantial gaps in the plan that would help facilitate the actions prioritized by the Board.

- C. Annexations- no new areas under consideration.

III. Water Quality

- A. Monitoring Results – lots of good samples but a couple spots remain of concern. WSDA has been quite actively monitoring.
- B. ZAP units – one has been approved on the Fishtrap at the LCHS salmon site. The site at the PUD has not yet been calibrated to have confidence in the data. Hanna at Lummi is the contact for it.
- C. Exact Scientific – source tracking technology – Rep. Buys is trying to find some State money to support the \$150k need for developing samples to be used to calibrate the testing equipment.
- D. CAFO Permit – a few are likely to apply for it.
- E. Portage Bay Partnership report – debate over Experts continues. Some progress on the horizon.
- F. Report on landowner contacts – 6 landowners have been individually contacted in the last months.
- G. The Board heard positive feedback from the meeting with farmers sharing water quality information in February. The thought was to do something similar this fall.

IV. Water Supply – Henry reviewed current actions including:

- A. Olympia Report – fate of ESSB 5239 – tied up in budget negotiations. The Tribes remain opposed and the Governor has promised he would not sign what they oppose. Several water attorneys are working together to develop a compromise that could gain support. AWB and Family Farmers are sending support letters for 5239.

- B. Whatcom Water Supply work group – A list indicating the membership and goals of this organization was distributed. Issues being addressed and/or managed by this group include:
 - Lummi Infrastructure project
 - Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project
 - Ground water Modeling
 - Drought Contingency Plan
 - WWSWG Action Plan
- C. Water Bank application – This application is nearly ready to submit to the last review round. It would support work to review water rights and prepare several transfers making use of a water bank.

V. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Ditch maintenance – Brad, Rod, and Terry met with Joel on potential maintenance projects.
- B. Culvert replacements – the WDFW map of culverts and blockages was displayed. The idea of getting culverts fixed and banking the mitigation for future ditch maintenance projects was appealing. Lane Stremmer indicated they could help with some culvert replacements. Brad wondered how much project money was left in the SWID budget. Henry felt there was between \$2-3k non-designated funds.
- C. 5-year programmatic permit – S Lynden is having a 5 Year Plan developed for the entire WID. Frank Corey is preparing it for them. Sumas is interested as well but Frank is not available until later summer. It would be good to have a plan in place before we try to bank mitigation projects.

VI. Education/Communications

- A. Agricultural Protection strategy – not discussed
- B. Commissioner Tour – planned for June 13th with the agenda developed last fall.
- C. Website - www.sumaswid.com

VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Legal – Bill Clarke continues to provide legal services and education support in Olympia on a monthly retainer.
- B. AESI instream flow report – Chuck Lindsay’s team has been hired to provide a clearer understanding of how to look at the In-Stream Flow settings on the River and tributaries. They should have a report prepared in the next two weeks.
- C. Strategy review – the list of strategies and actions for the AWB that was generated at the Planning Workshop was distributed. Input should be provided to Andy, the AWB representative from the WID.

Strategy	Lead
<i>Communication/Outreach</i>	
Preserving the “one voice” outreach...continue work with key partners...work together to defend agriculture and get the word out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom Family Farmers – Fred, specific partners – e.g. public affairs people in organizations • Story specific for information • Brad & Rich
Communication and community outreach...message in positive way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
Habitat for species...telling people what farmers are doing to benefit habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<i>Legal</i>	
Continue to identify legal access to water supply...acquiring, getting water where it needs to go	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Henry, Chuck, Greg
Work together on tribal negotiations on water quality and supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation Team, Fred, Greg • Needs expanded and probably a different team as supply is addressed

Legal challenges, and holding them off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry
Quality	
Work together on funding for and implementation of DNA testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David – N3, Landon, Kent,
Water quality projects and how it effects our industry...improving and communicating xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred, • See above
Drainage	
Get permits faster and eliminate some of the paper work – 5 year Programmatic Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karin, Frank, Joel, Henry, Fred
Supply/Access	
Water quantity projects and ability to have water long term for future generations...mitigation banking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill, Marty, Scott, Jeff, Greg, Henry
Organizational/Administrative	
Tracking legislation, rule making, agendas, and impacts at County, State, Federal levels...agriculture representation on committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry, Bill, Fred, partner individuals
Utilize the influence system of collective WIDs including messengers and skills development (training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom Family Farmers
Organize the listing of committees and groups to get agriculture representation on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry, Fred and members

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:05. Next meeting is May 9 provided a quorum can be generated. Farmers will likely be pressed for fieldwork at that time.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____