

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: November 9, 2021 Meeting, 1pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 893 2764 6107 Passcode: 680206

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89327646107?pwd=aNla0JUSDhETlhGeTFpRENqZ2MvUT09>

<u> </u> t <u> </u> Terry Lenssen	<u> </u> Andy Enfield	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Keith Boon
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Alan Sytsma	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Brad Rader	
<u> </u> t <u> </u> John Vander Veen	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Fred Likkel
<u> </u> Alan Chapman	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Katie Faber	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Jay Chennault

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

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:12.

Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Brad closed the Board of Equalization Hearing at 1:14.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of October 12 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
S0921	Ag Water Board	Sept, Oct. AWB	\$16,309.28
S1121	Ag Water Board	November, December	\$16,309.28
S0921	N3	Water monitoring	\$531.50
TOTAL VOUCHER			\$33,150.06

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

II. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Keith is elected to a 3 year term. Congratulations and Thanks!

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Solutions Table
 - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating an early 2022 start
 - Tribes will be there but their level of commitment to reach agreements in this setting is questioned. They insist adjudication is the priority for them.
- b. Project List - Surface to ground conversion candidates were reviewed from a list that AESI had developed. Surface rights were screened by volume, number of landowners who would have to be involved, value to flows and habitat, and likelihood of landowner interest in making the changes. Several priority candidates were identified and boardmember assignments to sense interest were made. Terry – De Vries, Keith – Van Middendorp and Bosscher. Those with interest would have Jay look into the legal complexities and some system design would be developed by the WID. We need to have a grant application developed by mid-December.
- c. Water Right acquisition candidates – a full list of surface and ground water rights with links to the current parcel owners was provided by AESI. The board will look for likely candidates in these lists that:
 - Are not fully using their water rights
 - May be locations where ag irrigation is not likely in the future
 - Are owned by entities not likely to vigorously defend their rights in an adjudication

The board expects future meetings to address these candidates and a plan to offer the landowners options developed.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance Darryl VW's request on Oat Coles Road was examined. Fred provided maps and history of the site from Frank Corey. This area does not have fish presence so permits may be easier but interest in help from others is limited. Brad will connect with the Brars to sense their perspective. We will keep pursuing possible options.
- b. Beaver trapping – no update
- c. Flood Committee update – Fred has several FLIP meetings in the next few weeks.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David provided a new set of numbers. No significant challenges but areas of continued concern. There seems to be an issue with the early and heavy rains making some lagoons a challenge to empty in a timely manner.
- b. DNA testing costs - \$250/sample. With our recent work we can call out the percentage of avian influence. Terry moved to provide N3 a \$1000 budget to use as needed when samples are likely to have a high avian influence, Al seconded, motion carried unanimously. Art VW's place should be a prime location for taking these tests.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred noted that recent reports indicate that Portage Bay is 30% improved in counts over the past year.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.sumaswid.com

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Terry adjourned the meeting at 2:16. Next meetings are:
December 14 in Sumas – noon meeting at Bob's – David will set up. Agenda includes water quality, WID project budget, and adjudication actions by AWB.
January 11

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____