

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 8, 2021 Meeting, 1pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 858 1291 2440 Passcode: 648234

<u>  t  </u> Terry Lenssen	<u>  t  </u> Andy Enfield	<u>  o  </u> Keith Boon
<u>  o  </u> Alan Sytsma	<u>  x  </u> Brad Rader	
<u>      </u> David Haggith	<u>  x  </u> Henry Bierlink	<u>  x  </u> Fred Likkel
<u>      </u> Alan Chapman	<u>      </u> Joel Ingram	<u>      </u> Frank Corey
<i>x = present</i>	<i>o = absent with notice</i>	<i>t = teleconference</i>

Brad opened the meeting at 1:04.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of March 9 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
S0621	Ag Water Board	May, June AWB	\$16,309.33
S0621	Ag Water Board	July, August AWB	\$16,309.33
S0621	N3	Water monitoring	\$607.50
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$33,226.16</b>

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

### II. Annexation areas

- a. [Minaker Road](#)
- b. [North Telegraph](#)
- c. [Trapline](#) - Dave De Waard has asked to be annexed and is circulating the petition around with his neighbors.

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. County led Collaboration
  - Legislature provided 2 years funding @ \$125k/yr
  - County Executive meeting with AWB Water Supply Committee – June 8<sup>th</sup> - was summarized. Satpal understands the concerns with an adjudication and shares our goal of illustrating a better path to a solution by the time the 2023 Legislature considers the filing and funding of an adjudication. Tribes remain non-committal to an alternative path. A Tribal meeting with Ecology this month may help them determine their approach to County led collaboration.
  - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – report due in July. Will likely be retained as a neutral party able to provide back channel communications with Tribes and Ecology.
  - Conflicting letters from [ReSources](#) and [Family Farmers](#)
  - [Executive's response](#) – challenged ReSources desire to abandon collaboration and focus only on data collection.
- b. Watershed Management Board projects
  - Drainage Based Management - [outline](#)
    - Seeking expansion of outline AND key initial projects from each pilot
  - Regional Water Supply Plan – [data collection](#)
- c. Legal Preparation – AWB Legal committee and Bill Clarke are recommending some steps to prepare for an adjudication, should one actually be filed. We will set aside time at future AWB Board meetings for Executive Sessions as we prepare for litigation. We are planning to rotate Executive Sessions among future WID meetings as well to keep WID

boards fully informed as well. Bill is suggesting that all WIDs look at obtaining a water right in the next 18 months. This would help ensure the WIDs have the standing they will need to be part of an adjudication and potential solutions arising in an adjudication or alternative agreement. Henry asked the board members to be alert to any land conversions where a water right might be purchased.

#### **IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- a. Beaver trapping – [contract with Travis](#)- Henry has sent a draft contract several times but no response. Andy noted Travis has been doing some surveillance and asked him to submit a report. No response yet. Terry will check with Travis.
- b. Trapline area update – The board was unsure of the status. Seems most of the trapping should be done and some cleaning should occur. Followed by regular beaver maintenance.
- c. Clearbrook culvert – Keith is working on this.
- d. Kneuman Road - Keith is working on this.

#### **V. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results were not available.
- b. DNA project – Avian project report has been received. It helps clarify some issues but more questions arise. There is some interest in pursuing more data to answer these questions. Fred expects to arrange a fall meeting where Exact can present the data to the sponsoring WIDs and discuss next steps.

#### **VI. Education/Communications**

- a. [www.sumaswid.com](http://www.sumaswid.com)
- b. Meeting in Sumas this fall – possibly October, or in September if water quality numbers suggest a meeting earlier.
- c. Whatcom CD – Fred noted that Frank Corey has been appointed the Interim Executive Director upon George's retirement June 1<sup>st</sup>. There are interviews scheduled for a permanent position. A question about who was appointed to the open board position was unknown.

#### **VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Brad adjourned the meeting at 1:31. Next scheduled meetings are:  
September 14  
October 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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