

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: November 13, 2018 Meeting, 1 - 3 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Terry Lenssen Andy Enfield Keith Boon
 Rod Perry Brad Rader

David Haggith Henry Bierlink Fred Likkel
 Alan Chapman _____ Joel Ingram _____ Frank Corey
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

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.

Terry opened the Board of Equalization Hearing. With no comments Andy moved to close the hearing, Keith seconded, motion carried unanimously.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of October 8 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Keith moved to approved the Consent Agenda, Andy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administration

- a. No nominations for board membership other than the nomination of Keith by the board were received. Keith is elected to another three year term.
- b. Rod's health issues were discussed. The board is fully supportive of his battle to regain his health and continue to serve on the WID board. But also aware that his presence might not be counted on for the last year of his term which ends in December, 2019. Potential candidates for future board members were discussed including Randy VerMulm, Ed Bosscher, Jerry Van Dellen. Someone from the Lawrence area would be good to get on the board so that area is better represented.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. AWB/Tribal meetings – Nooksack meeting was held in September. Lummi meeting is still pending.
- b. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - Debate over fees (\$500), max amount (3000 gpd), meters – PU provisionally approved no change in the fees or amount and elected to have voluntary metering leading to needed data collection on rural water use.
 - Deadline for PU approval of the final plan is December 12
- c. Ecology grant application – grant submitted 10/31, notice in late December
 - Funding for surface to ground transfers and augmentation projects
 - Credit for AG when implementing stream projects
 - Water Bank/Exchange
 - Drainage Based Mgt – begin in January – likely Drayton and Bertrand
 - Impact on AWB budget, workplan – We will be busy implementing projects rather than just talking about them if the grant is approved.
- d. Flood Management grant application – ranked 1st in State, submitted by WC Flood
 - Funding for a yet to be determined ag/flooding/fish project
 - AWB staff time spent on the FLIP process in 2019-2021
 - Impact on AWB budget, workplan – funds would not be available until July.
- e. Alan Chapman – introduced as the newly elected supervisor at the Whatcom Conservation District. Interested in collaborative projects. Also on the Fishers Caucus in the Planning

Unit and has been active in the Puget Sound Partnership. Noted another election for a WCD Supervisor seat will be held in early 2019.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Pangborn Ditch project – mowing was completed, set up for cleaning in fall, 2019.
- b. County ditch mowing – Keith is trying to find the right person to connect with at the County. Jeff Gollen has retired. He will connect the vegetation crew at Public Works and discuss spraying as well as mowing ditches.
- c. Sytsma drainage project – Keith visited with Alan regarding his response to our invitation to alert us to potential drainage projects for the WID. Alan has a low area in the field east of Highway 9, north of Alm. He provided Keith will some quotes for the pipe and materials that ranged between \$4 and \$5k. He offered to pay for the installation and wondered if the WID would pay for the pipe. This prompted a board discussion over where WID funds should best be spent. All agreed that Alan should proceed with the project. The concern is who pays for it. System wide improvements where numerous landowners will benefit from improved drainage is the WID priority. A project that benefits only one landowner is a much lower priority. Andy suggested tabling the discussion until we look at all other potential projects in 2019 and making a decision on this one then.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results - October/November was a difficult period for fecal counts throughout the basin. Sumas was improved over past years.
- b. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – Just getting started.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred reported a high count was reported in Portage Bay which will hinder the ability to fully open the shellfish beds for some time. There was no clear suspect for the high count.
- d. Landowner contacts – David connected with 3 SWID farmers over water quality issues.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.sumaswid.com
- b. AWB Newsletter – ready for printing and distribution.
- c. WFF – REAL campaign – Farmer Rally November 8 – a success, many ag business and ag service individuals attending.

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Strategic Planning – some time should be devoted to taking a broad look at our direction and setting some goals for 2019. The Board suggested that the December meeting should make time for this discussion. The January meeting will likely be cancelled unless an item of urgency arises.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

December 11
January 15?

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____