

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 13, 2017 Meeting, 11:30 am – 3 pm

Bob's @ Sumas

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Lenssen	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Horat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary DeBont	<input type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of April 11 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		\$51,972.17		
Fund Balance 4/1/2017		\$51,916.73		
Fund Balance 6/1/2017		\$80,317.88		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$80,317.88
Outstanding bills:				\$14,804.00
Ag Water Board <i>May, June AWB Admin</i>			\$12,564.00	
N3 <i>Water quality monitoring</i>			\$2,240.00	
End of Month Balance				\$65,513.88

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	75,384	37,692.00	37,692.00
Projects	13,110	6,832.00	6,278.00
Insurance/Adm	4,191	225.86	3,965.14
	92,685	44,749.86	47,935.14

Andy moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Terry seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- A. Review and approve Priority Issue and Activity lists

Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
1. Water Quality	Continued water quality testing	
	Consider a Fall meeting with landowners like was done in February	
2. Water Rights	Support the AWB	
3. Agricultural protection		
4. Communication, Outreach, Education	Outreach and education with our land owners	
	Ditch cleaning projects	
	Work with Lane Stremler on culvert replacements	@ TJ Veenacre

- B. Update Comprehensive Plan – The draft plan, ready for being placed on the Sumas website was briefly reviewed. A few editorial changes were suggested. Keith moved to accept this as the final draft plan with the understanding that updates and substantive changes would continually be made by the Board to what is to be regarded as a “living plan”, Andy seconded, motion passed unanimously. The SWID will devote 5-10 minutes from each meeting in the future to review and update the Plan focusing on manageable sized sections.

III. Water Quality

- A. Monitoring Results – David presented the latest monitoring data. It indicates some significant challenges. Fred noted that Sumas does not compare well with other areas being monitored. The Board was inclined to have another meeting in Sumas in September to present the data to local farmers.
- B. Exact Scientific – source tracking technology - A large scale DNA proposal has been prepared for consideration in the State budget. In the short-term, in order to demonstrate how this technology could be put to use Exact has crafted a proposal to do a pilot project in the South Lynden WID on the Scott Ditch reach between Strandell and Nolte Road. Depending on the level of effort costs would be between \$4,500 and \$18,900. The larger effort is being considered but South Lynden does not have that amount of project budget. Other WIDs have agreed to contribute \$8k to the project. The SWID supports the project but has no project budget to contribute. It was suggested that the AWB should help.

IV. Water Supply

- A. Olympia Report – the fate of ESSB 5239 (Hirst Fix) is still up in the air. The AWB has been working with Bill and other local partners to have some suggested budget language to be inserted to final budget negotiations should the opportunity present itself. Bill is floating this idea with other groups including the Lummis.

- Whatcom Water Action Pilot Program proposal - 2 years - \$150k/yr.

(X) \$300,000 is provided solely to establish the Whatcom Water Action Program (WWAP). With these funds, the department shall retain a qualified consultant to develop a multi-purpose water resource program capable of providing both technical and market analysis of existing water rights, changes of existing water rights, mitigated water rights, and development of new water infrastructure, including but not limited to storage, pipelines, aquifer recharge, and other projects. The program would be designed to meet water resource needs for both instream and out-of-stream needs, and be capable of supporting future water resource agreements. The program will analyze demands, design supply options, and create an exchange service where access to water will be methodical and transparent; including water uses for agriculture, rural residents, municipal supply, and instream flows. The department shall establish a steering committee for the program, which shall include major water resource stakeholders and federally-recognized tribes.

- B. Whatcom Water Supply work group – Henry provided a brief summary of projects this group was working on including:
- Lummi Infrastructure project
 - Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project
 - Ground water Modeling
 - Drought Contingency Plan
 - Action Plan
- C. Water Exchange/Banking – A Pilot Program proposal to the AWB was reviewed.

V. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Ditch maintenance
- B. Culvert replacements – Brad and Joel from WDFW met to discuss the inadequate culvert at John Vander Veen’s farm. There may be opportunity to replace the culvert and add to a mitigation project for future ditch cleaning projects.
- C. 5-year programmatic permit – developing a WID wide permit would be of interest to the Board. Budgeting for this and some projects will be considered this fall.

VI. Education/Communications

- A. Database Management – Meg from the Conservation District was introduced. She is going to be gathering and presenting all the available water quality data in a timely and readable manner.
- B. Website - www.sumaswid.com
- C. Water Symposiums – Henry distributed the agenda for Day 1 of the Sept 20-21 “Baker to Bay” symposium. Rich Appel has agreed to present the Ag perspectives on how we view the Ecosystem. A second symposium specific to water supply is being planned for Nov. 1 or 2.

VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Spring newsletter is out.
- B. AESI instream flow report was presented to Water Supply Committee and will have more discussion at the AWB meeting.
- C. Portage Bay Partnership update (in Executive Session)

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

July 11 and August 8 are likely to be cancelled September 12 in Sumas, - 10:30 Board meeting followed by a Noon meeting with landowners about water quality.

Commissioner Tour

1. Sediment trap (Keith)
2. water quality sampling sites (David)
3. May Road wells (Keith)
4. problem culverts (Terry)
5. Clearbrook Creek (Rod – Andy and Brad talk to J & J Farms)

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____