

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – October 10, 2023, 1 PM

Board Attending:

Terry Lenssen
 Al Sytsma

Brad Rader
 Keith Boon

Andy Enfield

Others Attending:

Gavin Willis
 Anna Beebe
 Alan Chapman
 Jay Chennault

Henry Bierlink
 Dale Buys
 Bill Clarke
 Sunny Aulakh

Fred Likkel
 Frank Corey
 David Haggith
 Katie Faber

x – present

o – absent with notice

t – teleconference

p – proxy

Terry called the meeting to order at 1:04. Terry delegated chair responsibilities to Al for the meeting.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Sep 12 minutes were reviewed.
- b. Financial report was reviewed.
- c. Andy moved to approve the consent agenda. Terry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Terms are ending for Brad and Andy.
 - i. Terry moved to renominate all board members with expiring terms. Andy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Discussion of the budget, including AWB budget request. Andy moved to approve the AWB request and set additional budget of \$4600 for operation expenses and \$74,000 for projects. Terry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Resolution 2023-01 – Setting the 2024 Assessment Rate
 - i. Terry moved to approve Resolution 2023-01 setting the assessment rate at \$10.00 per acre. Andy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Resolution 2023-02 – Establishing the 2024 Assessment Roll
 - i. Assessment roll was reviewed.
 - ii. Andy moved to approve Resolution 2023-02 and establish the assessment roll for 2024. Terry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. AWB event on Sep 13th had over 450 attendees. There was significant frustration from the attendees about the prospect of an adjudication. WFF will be hosting a similar event the afternoon of Nov 8th from 2-4pm at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden.

- b. The AWB is considering re-applying for ECY's Streamflow Restoration Grant in order to do surface-to-groundwater conversions. There is potential to coordinate with other interests on the WMB as opposed to applying as a single entity – packaging the applications in this way may improve the odds of the application being approved, and also reduce administrative load for AWB staff for grant management.

4. FEMA Projects

- a. Work to set up an A&E contract for Lower Sumas project continues. Sunny noted that Dept. of Commerce funding plan will go out for comments in about 3 weeks. Gavin will send a draft RFQ to Sunny for brush clearing.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided an update on flood issues. The County is no longer pursuing raising Tom and Lindsay Roads as a flood management strategy.
- b. Remaining portion of Jones Rd ditch above the gas pipeline was cleaned out by the county using a hydrovac. The full width of the ditch wasn't cleared, but it was cleared sufficiently for drainage.
- c. Request for Brevik development in City of Everson to utilize the SWID's HPA to clear a portion of a ditch just north of Everson near VanBuren Rd, as per Dale Buys email to Henry on October 9. Discussion followed about specifics of drainage in that area.
 - i. Terry moved to allow permit use subject to plan approval by Joel Ingram and Frank Corey, provided that the work will not negatively impact downstream landowners and won't impact FEMA eligibility. Andy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Water Quality

- a. Anna provided an update on water quality data – no outstanding issues at this point.
- b. Anna noted that regional manure nutrient management training will be Thursday, January 18th from 9am to 2pm at the Mt Baker Rotary Building at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds. Registration and details available at whatcomcd.org
- c. EQIP application deadline is Oct 20 for landowners who may be eligible.

7. Landowner Contacts

- a. Note to send letters to landowners about upcoming work in the lower Sumas River.

8. Education / Communications

- a. Website – sumaswid.com
 - i. Possible website update to simplify AWB staff workflow and ensure compliance with state requirements. Gavin will bring more info to the next meeting.
- b. Whatcom Family Farmers is hosting their annual Farmer Rally on Nov 8 at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden. They will be hosting an

educational event for farmers about the adjudication from 2-4 pm prior to the rally.

9. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. None.

10. Next Meetings

- a. The next meeting is November 14th
- b. The November meeting will also serve as the board of equalization.

AI adjourned the meeting at 2:08 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____