

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 12, 2019 Meeting, 1 - 3 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Terry Lenssen Andy Enfield Keith Boon
 Rod Perry Brad Rader

Stacey Beier Henry Bierlink Fred Likkel
 Kevin Elenbaas Randy Honcoop Heather MacKay
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of December 11 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

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

II. Administration

- a. Board reorganization – officer election – AWB representatives – consensus of the Board to leave Brad as chair, Terry as vice-chair, and Andy as the AWB representative.
- b. Annual Review – AWB and Whatcom Family Farmers – feedback was positive about the structure that was set up some years back.
- c. Potential candidates for future board positions – Henry circulated a list of parcel owners within the WID with more than 10 acres of land. The idea of having a list of interested individuals that would be willing to receive and review the agendas and attend occasional meetings was advanced. Henry also asked for correction in ownership as the list was generated from a database over 5 years old.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management – Henry reported
 - Expect Ecology funding – should know mid-March
 - Puget Sound Partnership Near Term Action funding possible
 - One of the elements in the WRIA #1 5-year Action Plan
 - Meetings to set up where, when, and how DBM occurs
 - Likely beginning in Drayton, Bertrand
 - Establish a Core Group that works together in each drainage – 2 WID, 2 County, 2 Tribe, PUD, WDFW, DOE.
- b. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - PU continuing to work on update to 2005 Plan
 - Management Board returning to implementing 5-year workplan

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Pangborn Ditch project – Brad noted a cleanout is still planned for this fall. Fred mentioned the Van Buren culvert was discussed at a County culvert meeting.
- b. Sytsma – It was noted that Alan had done the drainage work in his field. A culvert along Lindsey Road remains a problem. The County is aware.
- c. County ditch mowing – Keith hasn't heard anything. Henry will check back with Travis.
- d. Meeting with County – all these projects and potential projects point towards a meeting with the County public works this spring. It should include all the WIDs. We should generate a list of ag drainage projects and invite the County to discuss in April.
- e. FLIP process – looking for pilot projects – Fred updated the Board on the FLIP process. It has been slowed a bit by not having high flows this winter to provide needed data. Recent emphasis is on identifying potential early action items and determining which should be prioritized. Fred reminded the Board that it is quite likely Whatcom PW Flood Division will receive state funding which includes \$600k for an ag/fish/flood project(s). He is challenging WIDs with river frontage to generate potential projects.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – numbers are looking good.
- b. Vigilance – Fred reviewed some pictures WSDA had provided at the Manure Mgt. Training session in January. Much has approved but there are still issues that need continued attention. The water quality alert letter sent out by the WID in January was also noted
- c. Ecology Nitrate monitoring project – Fred reviewed a presentation Ecology had provided on nitrates in north Whatcom groundwater. They did a major follow-up study to the 1997 report in 2018. Nitrates were trending lower but there were still issues along the BC border. Ecology is seeking cooperative landowners in the Bertrand and North Lynden WIDs to provide them sites for monitoring wells. There are some sites along the western boundary of the Sumas WID as well. The Board expressed support for Fred to work with these landowners with caveats that the data not be used against farmers.
- d. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Water Quality focused meeting in Sumas next month was discussed. May might be a better month if we end up having the County PW at our April meeting.
- b. Website - www.sumaswid.com
- c. Open Public Meetings Act training was provided for Board members

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

April 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____