

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 10, 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
 Javier Sampedro Joel Ingram Frank Corey
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of March 13 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

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

II. Administration

The budget was discussed. There are a lot more projects than we have the funds to do. Partnering with the DIDs helps but even then the funds are very limited. Andy brought the concerns over the SWID paying a disproportional part of the AWB budget but the AWB Board was not yet inclined to make adjustments as all other WIDs are assessing at \$6/acre and Sumas at \$5.

III. Ag Water Board

- a. AWB "Next Steps" proposal
 - i. Vet with Lummi - Present as logical progression of the process they outlined in 2015. Greg Ebe is leading the connection with Lummi.
 - ii. Emphasis on implementing projects – demonstrate our commitments – including the surface to ground water conversion project opportunities in ESB 6091.
 - iii. Goal of having Lummi and AWB advance Drainage Based Management at the Watershed Management Board in Fall.
- b. Foster Task Force pilot program – opportunity for all WID members with a surface water right that you would consider moving to groundwater.
 - i. Need a list of applicants by June 1
 - ii. Would apply for funds to cover water right transfer processing and cost share
 - iii. R & E and AESI assisting in locating likely candidates. Henry referred to the maps provided by AESI. Our goal is to identify several (2-4) potential surface water rights that might be converted to a groundwater source.

Purposes of the project are:

1. Demonstrate our commitment to improve stream flows
2. Assist farmers with getting water rights solidified and infrastructure updated.
3. Make sure we don't lose water rights because of nonuse or underuse.

Priority projects will be:

1. Upstream
2. Significant volume
3. An interested party with few complications.

WID board was encouraged to study the maps and help identify potential projects meeting these criteria. We would like to keep soliciting interest in this type of a project as we expect there will be more opportunities in future years.

- c. Spring Workshop on water right tools – likely early June.
- d. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update – Ecology is trying to provide a clear definition of "net ecological benefit", a requirement in the ESB 6091 legislation. There will be a need for mitigating projects and ag in the best place to provide them.

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Ditch maintenance – visit with County road crew
 - Gas Plant – Keith outlined the problem and what DID #5 is doing to alleviate it. SWID will write a letter of support for the project to receive EQIP funding.
 - Pangborn Ditch – need to get the permit for cleaning the rest of the ditch
 - Vernon Dykstra – Brad will talk with Ted Huizinga to get a quote on cleaning the brush in Johnson Creek.
 - KN Berry Farm – culvert under Van Buren could be larger. Eastern portion of the farm drains north. There are problems with what has been done recently.
 - Van Buren Road – working with Stremlers
 - Van Dykens – Bob’s – new owner
- b. Flood- FLIP – a meeting to discuss the results of the sediment study will be held Thursday.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David reported a generally good winter of tests. WSDA flew over the area and saw very few potential problems. David was encouraged to have a site specific map on the back of the test result sheet so everyone could determine precisely where the samples are being drawn.
- b. South Lynden source tracking project report - @ a future SLWID meeting
- c. Joint Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District Advisory meeting – 25th

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.sumaswid.com
- b. E-Newsletter
- c. WFF – REAL campaign
- d. First Salmon Ceremony will be on May 17, 2018 from 10:00 to 2:00

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

June 12

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____