

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 14, 2017 Meeting, 1pm – 3pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

<input type="checkbox"/> Terry Lenssen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Enfield	<input 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"/> Heather MacKay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Lovato Niles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kasey Cykler	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Jilk	<input type="checkbox"/> Aneka Sweeney

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of January 10 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		\$39.54		
Fund Balance 1/1/2017		\$65,365.97		
Fund Balance 2/1/2017		\$65,405.11		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$65,405.11
Outstanding bills:				\$7,098.00
Ag Water Board <i>Feb AWB Admin</i>			\$6,282.00	
Ag Water Board <i>sponsorships</i>			\$200.00	
N3 <i>Water quality monitoring</i>			\$616.00	
End of Month Balance				\$58,307.11
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	75,384	12,564.00	62,820.00	
Projects	13,110	816.00	12,294.00	
Insurance/Adm	4,191		4,191.00	
	92,685	13,380.00	79,305.00	

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

II. Old Business

A. Ag Water Board report

- Legal - Lummi Settlement Negotiations – Brad noted that “partnership” remains an elusive goal but the Portage Bay Partnership was moving down the road in the right direction. The two lead farms have been identified. Agreement on the technical experts has been more difficult. They are working on a Scope of Work for the experts that will be advanced by both the Tribe and the farmers.

B. Comprehensive Plan development

- Priority setting - Heather gave an overview of how the Sumas WID plan is developing including the Outline and list of Action Items and goals. The board will review this draft and gain a sense of how this might work as a template for other WID plans. Keith suggested that the template should be used by the AWB to create an all WID Plan as well as each individual WID plans. Aquifer recharge areas were mentioned as an important addition for the draft.
- All WID meeting to discuss Comprehensive Plans and strategies is planned for March 21st. Fred has gained approval from the Conservation Commission to get help from facilitator Rey Ledgerwood to advance WID plans and actions. He is available on March 21st and other WIDs have suggested an all WID meeting

where Comprehensive Plans, Strategies, and Action Items are both jointly discussed and then broken into each WID discussions. Plans are being made to cancel March WID meetings and to focus on this agenda for March 21st.

IV. New Business

A. Ditch & Dike Maintenance

- Culvert replacements - <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/fishpassage/> - it is clear that replacing culverts can be a more attractive mitigation for drainage work than tree planting and maintenance. EQIP has dollars to help farmers with culvert replacement which could bank mitigation for the WID.
- Programmatic Drainage Permits - WCD assistance – Frank Corey may have a few hours each month to help WIDs develop 5-year Programmatic Drainage Plans.

B. Water Quality

- Water quality testing results were quite good again in January. The board looked at the monitoring map and several additional sites were suggested. This conversation will continue at the Dairy Meeting on the 23rd and the Board will determine if and where more testing might take place.
- Dairy farmer meeting is tentatively reset for Feb. 23rd.
- Exact Scientific – source tracking technology is purchased but little movement on testing local e coli sources.
- N Budget – David noted that EPA was likely funding \$150k towards developing a Nitrogen Budget in the north county. The pros and cons of such a project were debated.

C. Water Quantity

- Legislation in Olympia – Bill provided a list of water bills with some highlights on bills that are making progress in the system. HB 1885 seems to be the preferred option for our famers as it fixes both *Hirst* and *Foster* and has bipartisan involvement.
- Water Supply Strategy draft is being worked on by the AWB Water Supply committee.
- Whatcom Water Supply Coalition – meets the third Thursday of each month. More water work is coalescing in this partnership which includes the cities, the County, PUD, AWB, Water Districts, and Water Associations. Birch Bay's Deep Aquifer project reports there as does the Drought Response Taskforce, and increasingly the Lummi Infrastructure project.
- Birch Bay Water and Sewer Deep Aquifer project – the first well was not a productive as hoped but the second well has exceeded expectations in volume and quality. Another well is being drilled shortly.
- Water Bank grant application – The AWB is submitting an initial application for helping to develop Water Banks to the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program administered by WSDA. The project follows initial work of this nature done by the Snoqualmie WID and helps develop the mechanisms to move water both seasonally and permanently between farmers and other water suppliers.

D. Education

- WCD Speaker Series – Sumas program on March 16th - Rod will introduce
- WSU Water Workshop – February 22
- May Tour of Sumas WID
- Website www.sumaswid.com

IV. Adjournment/Next Meeting

March 14

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____