

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: February 11, 2020 Meeting, 1 - 3 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Terry Lenssen Andy Enfield Keith Boon
 Alan Sytsma Brad Rader

David Haggith Henry Bierlink _____ Fred Likkel
 _____ Alan Chapman George Boggs _____ Frank Corey
x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 12 and December 10 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

N3	May, 2019	\$773.00
AWB	Jan, Feb	\$12,813.94
AWB	Dec. bd. Mtg	\$295.00
WCD	Corey hrs.	\$545.70
TOTAL - Month		\$14,427.64

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

II. Administrative

- a. Officer election – need a President and VP/Secretary - Alan moved to elect Brad as President and Terry as VP/Sect., Andy seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Oath of office – Alan took the Oath at the start of a new 3-year term.
- c. Public Records designee – required by RCW 42.56 - Alan moved to appoint Henry Bierlink as the Public Records designee, Andy seconded, motion carried unanimously

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management pilot – Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton
 - First mtg 12/16 – data gathering, next steps are to develop a database of current data for each pilot, send an RFP to candidates to summarize that data for each pilot and suggest management solutions for the group to consider. The focus will be on water supply but there will be room for habitat and water quality discussions.
 - Linking this process to the Flood Management work under the FLIP process is a goal advanced by the AWB.
- b. AWB Grant from Ecology - \$150k for 2 years
 - Develop Project Lists – surface to ground and augmentation potential sites
 - Implement 2 conversions, 1 augmentation project
 - Project meeting with Reichhardt and Ebe and AESI - 13th
- c. Adjudication meeting – Lummi joined Nooksack in sending a letter of request for a basin-wide general stream adjudication. This makes what we earlier sensed was a low likelihood more likely. Ecology’s point person to explore potential adjudication locations throughout the state will meet with the AWB February 12th. We determined to invite all WID Board members to listen into this discussion.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Pangborn Creek project – Brad
 - Tree planting is being arranged with Lynden Christian students and plants provided through NSEA in April.
- b. Culvert replacement – the Board reviewed the online WDFW culvert map located at <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/fishpassage/index.html>

Board members were asked to Click on the yellow (partial barrier) or red (full barrier) triangles and a site specific report will pop up. Generating ideas for WID specific projects would be helpful as we prepare our 2020 Project budgets.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David noted that nearly all scheduled monitoring events over the past months happened to coincide with flood events. Unfortunately, “dilution as the solution to pollution” did not prove true.
- b. Sumas letter to WSDA re: hard dates for application – David talked with Michael I. about the wisdom of making this step. He sensed that “hard” dates are not always so hard as long as the conditions for later applications can be justified. The County CAO is the most restrictive of the regulations for application. WSDA is not the enforcer of County regulations even though they consider it in their actions.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.sumaswid.com
- b. Whatcom Conservation District workplan
George Boggs presented for the Whatcom Conservation District. Their Board is in the middle of a 5-year workplan (2017-2022) but desired a community discussion to “proof up” their assumptions and make needed adjustments to the Plan. The WCD is preparing a survey of its constituents and asked if the WID would help gather responses. We will distribute and also discuss our priorities at our next Board meeting. George altered the Board to the WCD’s desire to establish a base of funding so they would not be as reliant on grant funding. The proposal of \$5/parcel countywide would generate nearly \$500k annually to be used to firm up priority programs that don’t get grant funding and provide matching funds for grant funded programs. This funding plan would generate \$18k from land in the WIDs, \$30k from non-WID parcels in the ag area, and approximately \$450k from urban and rural residential areas. Plans are to present this idea to stakeholders, hold a Public Hearing before the WCD Board in June, and present this request to the County Council in July.
- c. AgWeatherNet stations – no report. Keith has been in contact with Scarlett.
- d. Special Purpose District proposed legislation – abuse of tax payer funds in a King County Drainage District has caused proposed legislation that would drastically change the structure of special purpose districts like the WIDs. Bill is monitoring and reports the changes are likely dead for this year.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

March 10

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____