

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: March 9, 2021 Meeting, 1 pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 875 4575 2982 Passcode: 193289

  t   Terry Lenssen                      t   Andy Enfield                      o   Keith Boon  
  o   Alan Sytsma                          t   Brad Rader

  t   David Haggith                        \_\_\_\_\_ Henry Bierlink                      t   Fred Likkel  
  o   Alan Chapman                        \_\_\_\_\_ Joel Ingram                          t   Frank Corey  
*x = present*                            *o = absent with notice*                        *t = teleconference*

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:09.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of February 9 Minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. The following voucher/warrants/electronic payments are approved for payment:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
S0321	Ag Water Board	March, April AWB	\$16,309.33
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$16,309.33</b>

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

### II. Annexation areas

- a. Board had not acted on these opportunity areas yet. Asked to keep these areas on the agendas:
  - Minaker Road
  - North Telegraph
  - Trapline

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate
    - Legislature – considering Gov’s request and a version of the budget proviso we helped to develop that doesn’t assume we are on a clear path to an adjudication.
    - County Executive proposal – not progressing until after the Legislative session as Tribes won’t commit to it unless an adjudication path is advancing.
    - Cascadia Policy Solutions - Maia, Jay – engaged by County, hoping they can bring some sanity to whatever direction the Legislature provides.
  - b. Watershed Management Board projects
    - Drainage Based Management – outline provided – a good start with good participation.
    - Regional Water Supply Plan – data collection and analysis phase completed. Evaluating management options.
  - c. Other WID projects with supply implications
    - S Lyn – PUD pipeline, Lynden MAR, Bellingham Middle Fork
    - Drayton – Deep Aquifer, Water Bank, augmentation
- Brad noted that we should be ready to offer letters of support if requested to any of these potential projects. He also suggested the board read about the pipeline project at Boardman (*David forwarded the article*).

### IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. CREP program and drainage responsibilities – Frank – WCD – There is some funding for maintain drainage at CREP sites. It can cover trapping and some dam modifications. They often use NSEA for dam removal and they are limited to lowering water no more than 1“/hr.

and 12”/24 hrs. The program is complaint driven. If drainage problems can be traced to CREP projects we need to contact Frank.

- b. Beaver trapping – contract with Travis – Terry move to approve the Monitoring Scope of Work provided by Travis at \$500/mo. for one year with renewal likely if results are acceptable. A quarterly report with maps of trapping sites is required. Trapping costs will be assigned to landowners, DID or the SWID as determined. Andy seconded, motion passed unanimously. Some initial focus areas were discussed. Henry reported that Darryl Van Weerdhuizen had called and expressed concern that his area’s drainage was not being addressed.
- c. Trapline area update – Frank noted that 9 beaver had been removed. There was a sense that dam removal could begin soon.
- d. Clearbrook culvert – Keith was going to check on it.
- e. Flood Committee update – Fred noted the planning for future flood work is slowed as a result of the impasse over movement towards adjudication. The opportunity to reengage is likely in the context of the Drainage Based Management process.

## **V. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – David presented the results which looked good in recent months. March and April are traditionally challenging.
- b. DNA project – Avian project – remains slowed although some analysis has occurred. Ryan has relocated to PA but is still working on this. Expected results within 3 months.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred reviewed the maps and data from Portage Bay. A clear decline in the numbers overall which may be attributed to taking samples at high runoff events. Further closures are possible. The likelihood of fall openings are increasingly unlikely.
- d. Report on landowner contacts – David has been working with some farms on Garrison and Nooksack Rds.

## **VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Review of Website, project list to be updated – [www.sumaswid.com](http://www.sumaswid.com)
  - Reference to legal strategy
  - Communication through WFF newsletters
  - Beaver control
  - DNA project
  - DBM
  - Contributions to salmon recovery
- b. Meeting in Sumas in April if all factors can line up.

## **VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Brad adjourned the meeting at 1:50. Next meeting is April 13.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_