

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: April 11, 2023, 1 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81937538227>

<u>  x  </u> Terry Lenssen	<u>  x  </u> Andy Enfield	<u>  x  </u> Keith Boon
<u>  x  </u> Alan Sytsma	<u>  x  </u> Brad Rader	
<u>  t  </u> David Haggith	<u>  x  </u> Henry Bierlink	<u>  x  </u> Fred Likkel
<u>  x  </u> Ross Widener	<u>  t  </u> Dave Heutink	<u>  x  </u> Frank Corey
<u>  t  </u> Jay Chennault	<u>  x  </u> Gavin Willis	<u>  t  </u> Katie Faber
<u>  t  </u> Brandy Reed	<u>  </u> Mike Horat	<u>  t  </u> Anna Beebe

*x = present*                      *o = absent with notice*                      *t = teleconference*

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:04.

### I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of March 14 Minutes
- Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
S0423	N 3 Consulting	fecal and asbestos samples	\$1,260.00
S0423	Widener Consulting	FEMA consulting	\$18,559.40
S0423	City of Sumas	FEMA projects	\$184,085.89
		<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>	<b>\$203,905.29</b>

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

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- Ecology adjudication budget request and proposed legislation – HB 1792 passed Legislature, on to the Governor
- Budget proviso – tech data and adjudication assistance – will find out soon – Senate had full request in their budget, House only 50%.
- [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>. County is seeking suggestions as to the agenda for this meeting. We are advancing our idea to vet projects like ours and take them to the Management Board for support.
- Watershed Management Board new 5-year plan – Henry drafted a first response to the survey of Management Board members as to what should be included in the new 5-year plan. This prompted discussion with concerns over how much we should look to the Management Board as the entity to resolve water issues. Perhaps the Solutions Table and/or a Federal Settlement should be independent of the Management Board. Others sensed that the Board is the logical place to initiate and advance discussions and ultimately to guide each member entity to be good for their commitments to implement agreed upon actions. The WID board suggested we add a request for full voting membership in the Watershed Management Board to the suggestions already included in the draft response to the survey
  - Add settlement, flood, drainage, land use to work plan
  - Suggest tie to federal settlement process to energize the Board
  - Add request for full vote for AWB

### III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- FEMA update – Ross reported he had received the green light for the Bertrand and Sumas WID flood response projects.
  - OR spotted frog holding things up
  - No payment to Sumas yet or invoices to FEMA
  - Survey of Sumas River proceeding – Right of Entry Agreements

- b. FLIP update – Fred reported on an upcoming meeting of the board where the flow split would be discussed.
- c. Ditch maintenance
  - De Jong drainage issues – Gavin has talked with the County PW about what might be done here.
  - Keith noted the Jones Road ditch cleaning had not been completed
- d. Buffers
  - WCD worksession followup
  - Key landowners discussion – a map of parcels with stream frontage in high priority areas was reviewed. The plan will be to send the buffer letter to the property owners in these high priority areas as soon as there is clarity on what funds will be available and what the required standards will be. Henry will send the map to the board members for further review.
  - Draft letter to Conservation Commission – the board approved sending a letter expressing our support for workable buffers.

#### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – Anna alerted the board to some recent data and David showed a table indicating some continually troubling numbers.
- b. Report on landowner contacts – David has had several conversations with farmers about potential source of contamination.

#### **V. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.sumaswid.com](http://www.sumaswid.com)
- b. Carbon Tax – Fred alerted the board to the closing days of the Legislative session. A generally productive session with the clear exception of the lack of movement on the ag fuel exemption that had been part of the Carbon Tax bill in 2022. Ecology was supposed to exempt ag fuel but hasn't done so. Discussion on how to resolve this did not arise at an acceptable plan.
- c. Disaster assistance – Anna reminded the Board that \$50k still remains in support for recovery from the 2021 flood.

#### **VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Brad adjourned the meeting at 2:52. The May 9 meeting is likely to be cancelled. Next meeting will be June 13.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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