

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: April 12, 2022 Meeting, 1 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88023317503?pwd=TW9QNmxZMFhLWndadlJ0dDBVeTZEUT09>

Meeting ID: 880 2331 7503 Passcode: 629714

<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> x </u> David Haggith	<u> x </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> x </u> Fred Likkel
<u> t </u> Oliva Tjoelker, N3	<u> t </u> Joel Ingram	<u> x </u> Frank Corey
<u> t </u> Jay Chennault	<u> t </u> Scott McCollum	<u> t </u> Katie Faber
<u> x </u> Gerald Hulbert	<u> t </u> Alan Chapman	<u> x </u> Dave De Waard
<u> x </u> Kallie Stafford	<u> x </u> Ed Raezer	

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:02.

I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of March 15, 2022 minutes
- Financial Report

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

II. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- Flood recovery – FEMA application is still in place. Expect a site visit later this month.
 - Osgood Road area – land owners joined the discussion. Frank provided a permit application to clean the impacted area which the WID will use to get the landowner signatures and submit. The question of who pays for the short term cleanout and the long term work will wait to see what FEMA is able to do.
 - WCC – the State Conservation Commission announced it has \$600k available to help farms with Flood impacts.
- Ditch maintenance
 - Rock Road. – Gerald alerted the board once again to the unresolved dispute over the fields at the end of Rock Road. The landowner has responded to the WID but has not connected with WDFW or the WCD.
 - Trapline Road – Dave DW noted the water on his field has not been addressed despite the beaver trapping that has occurred downstream. Brad and Terry will continue to work with Dave and his neighbors to address this. Frank reported the WCD had paid for trapping and were under the impression they were all trapped out.
- WCD Update – Alan called attention to the update of the Long Range Plan and a survey the CD is circulating that would help guide that plan. A key issue is creating stable (non-grant) funding for the CD. They are seeking advice on asking the County for a per parcel fee. The board reminded Alan that an Ag Engineer was a key need for farmers. The board was encouraged to fill out the survey and make that need clear.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVNTT6Z>

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- Water supply update
 - AWB contracted with Somach Law - focus on building alternatives to adjudication – federal, settlement options
 - Legal – Water Supply Team members preparing contract with same legal team
- Solutions Table
 - County working with Jay and Maia anticipating a May/June start –draft is being considered

- Linking with proviso supporting federal involvement in water mgt. (flood, supply, habitat)
- Project List – to be offered at Solutions Table
 - i. Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application submitted
- c. Water Right acquisition candidates
 - Determine who and how to contact
 - Menu of options for landowners – use Bertrand transfer project as a template for others
 - Will be working on a clear set of options to present to the water right holders we identified as uncertain if they would be defending their rights in an adjudication.
- d. [North County Interlocal Agreement](#) – draft was provided by Dan E. – Terry moved that the SWID approve the Agreement, Keith seconded, motion carried unanimously.

IV. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David noted the numbers were generally quite good.
- b. DNA testing – David has submitted a few DNA samples. A recent sample from Sumas indicated predominately avian influence.

V. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.sumaswid.com
- b. WFF Educational Event – May 25th – the board was asked for ideas on what should be covered. It is anticipated we'd have an afternoon educational session(s) followed by the Farmer Rally in the early evening. The Board suggested involvement from attorneys, local land use attorneys, and Jay Chennault.

VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Brad adjourned the meeting at 2:52. Next meetings are May 10, June 14, although the May meeting is likely to be cancelled as field work should be the priority.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____