

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – February 13, 2024

Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Brad Rader (<i>chair</i>) Terry Lenssen Andy Enfield Keith Boon (t) Al Sytsma	<i>none</i>

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Anna Beebe	Whatcom Conservation District
Elizabeth Hayes	Whatcom Conservation District
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Sunny Aulakh	City of Sumas Public Works

Proceedings

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Jan 9 minutes were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports and voucher were reviewed.
- d. Andy moved to approve the consent agenda. Terry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Andy signed his oath of office and waiver of compensation.

3. FEMA Projects

- a. Gavin provided an update on FEMA projects. Currently waiting on EMD approval for contract with Reichhardt & Ebe.
- b. Sunny noted that the City of Sumas is seeking reimbursement for emergency work of placing super sacks along Emerson Rd during most recent flood event. Basis for reimbursement is the mutual aid agreement between the City of Sumas and SWID.

4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Adjudication draft forms comment period – Bill is working on a letter to ECY. Gavin will circulate via email to WID board members as soon as draft letter is available.

- b. Gavin shared that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board is looking for a community review team representative from the Ag Water Board. Andy noted that he has an employee who may be interested in participating.
- c. Discussion about comments for the upcoming Whatcom County 2025 Comprehensive Plan review. Noted the need for a balance between protecting ag land and maintaining land value for landowners.
- d. Discussion about former EPL Lawrence Mill site being changed to allow for propane distribution.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided an update on FLIP work. Current projected timeline has any berms or other projects (other than buyouts) being at least 15 years in the future (potentially 30+). Discussion about need for more immediate action.
- b. Local beaver trapper relayed to Gavin a request from a local for beaver trapping assistance on Breckenridge Creek. Terry moved to provide a 50% cost share for beaver management work on Breckenridge Creek, not to exceed \$1,000 in assistance. Andy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Water Quality

- a. WQ data from N3 was reviewed. Numbers looking good.

7. Communications / Education

- a. Next water rights education event is March 27th from 6:30-8:30 PM at the NWWF. Will be similar to the November event, but will also incorporate information about the filing claim form.
- b. WFF has produced a video called "Losing the Farm", set to be released later in the week.

8. Other Items

- a. None.

9. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for March 12th at 1:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

