

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: January 10, 2023 Meeting, 1 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86411581511?pwd=dDhjMG5JNE9Kd3Q4L2M4Ym9nYUI3dz09>

Meeting ID: 864 1158 1511 Passcode: 016447

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Lenssen	<input type="checkbox"/> Andy Enfield	<input type="checkbox"/> Keith Boon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Sytsma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader	
<input type="checkbox"/> David Haggith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Likkel
<input type="checkbox"/> Ross Widener	<input type="checkbox"/> Joel Ingram	<input type="checkbox"/> Frank Corey
<input type="checkbox"/> t Jay Chennault	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gavin Willis	<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Faber
<input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Reed	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Horat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anna Beebe
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunny Aulakh	<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Bell
<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Schoonover	<input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Bosch	

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

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:06.

### I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of November 8 Minutes, November 20 special board meeting minutes and December 13 board minutes
- Financial Report

S0123      N 3 Consulting      fecal and asbestos samples      \$2,459.00

Terry moved approval of the Consent Agenda after reviewing the minutes and financial report, Alan seconded, motion passed unanimously. It was decided to hold off on payment to AWB and Widener Consulting until our cash flow concerns are more clearly addressed.

### II. Administrative

- Oath of Office – Terry and Alan were sworn in.
- Election of Officers: President, Secretary, AWB Representative – Terry moved to keep Brad as President, Andy as AWB representative, and Terry as Vice-Chair/Secretary, Al seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Loan request responses from Bertrand and South Lynden – Bertrand tabled the request as they had several projects developing and were unsure they could park \$50k for the year. They are open to reconsidering once their project demands are more developed. South Lynden is meeting later today.
- Cash flow concerns – Terry is checking with the Whatcom Flood Recovery Group to see if some funding may be available there. Sumas is helping with our application for HUD funds (\$30m. available) to address the 5% match requirement.

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- Water supply update
  - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement as one option.
  - Ecology adjudication budget request may be packaged with guidelines for the adjudication and support for alternative settlement processes.
  - Terry mentioned the Dairy farmers are at the capitol January 24-25 and could use the opportunity to discuss our needs with key legislators.
  - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – forming an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted.
- Water Right acquisition candidates
  - AWB establishing – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – recent mtg with Ecology indicates we can do some our water right protection strategy without creating a formal bank. But we will still be pursuing it as an option if needed.

- Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – likely this summer after we see the status of the adjudication and have the parameters of the Exchange established.
- Follow-up with key acquisition candidates as were identified by the WID Board last spring.

#### **IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood**

- FEMA update – Ross noted that they were working on getting the Saar detention pond eligible for funding. It has taken longer than expected. Sumas is nearly ready to go to bid for surveying Sumas River. The project group is meeting Thursday morning to recap.
- Ditch maintenance - should have our priority cleaning areas to the County by March.
- Buffer requirements – Fred reported that the pressure for large buffers is still very much present in the Legislature. It looks like mandatory buffers may be avoided for a few years but they will be back if the opportunity to implement buffers voluntarily does not make much progress. WCD is offering to lead each WID in a worksession to develop a strategy to match all the funding coming for buffers with the high priority areas where we can improve buffers and document these improvements. They presenting to 3 WIDs this month and hope to cover the other three in upcoming months. Sumas will host this in March.

#### **V. Water Quality**

- Monitoring Results – Anna reported there were no noted problems over the past few months.
- DNA testing – no update
- Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – Fred noted that Erika has moved up in the administration and will not be as available for the PIC program as in the past. Ingrid is replacing her. The WSDA Dairy inspection program has had several resignations resulting in decreasing inspections.

#### **VI. Education/Communications**

- Website – [www.sumaswid.com](http://www.sumaswid.com)

#### **VII. Other Items from Commissioners**

- Henry called attention to staff changes at the Ag Water Board. Gavin will be coming onto the AWB staff and beginning to take over administration of the WIDs and AWB board. Henry will continue in the water supply area for awhile but moving towards retirement.
- February meeting in Sumas. Most of the Board is not available on the planned February 14<sup>th</sup> date. We will try to have a February 2<sup>nd</sup> noon meeting at Bob's with a focus on water quality and updates on FEMA and adjudication.

#### **VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Terry closed the meeting at 2:23. Next meeting is February 14 – moved to February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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