

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: June 11, 2019 Meeting, 1 - 3 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Terry Lenssen Andy Enfield Keith Boon
 Rod Perry Brad Rader

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

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 9, April 23 Minutes
- b. Financial Report – *see financial report in board packet*
- c. The following vouchers are approved for payment:

Ag Water Board	May, June AWB	\$12,661.12
N3	wq monitoring - May	\$1,092.50
Ag Water Board	Bob's meeting	\$268.00
TOTAL - Month		\$14,021.62

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

II. Administration

- a. Rod Perry resignation – Rod submitted an emailed resignation due to health issues. The board received it with regrets and expressed thanks for Rod's thoughtful service and wished him all the best for the future. Keith will connect with several of the farmers who regularly attend the meetings in Sumas to encourage one of them to run for the open seat when it is up for nomination this fall.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply – Henry reported:

- a. Drainage Based Management – will be initiated as a subset of the Water Supply Plan facilitated by the PUD – Drayton and Bertrand are primed to begin as there is funding from grants managed by the PUD and Birch Bay Water and Sewer.
- b. Streamflow Restoration Grant application – waiting for contracts for higher rated projects to be completed in July, expecting some funding for fall.
- c. Ecology Rule Making – amending the Nooksack Rule – several conference calls with Bill and Ecology – see comments on the proposed rule @ <http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/comment/extra?start=301&id=GFRjc>
It was noted that the tribal comments were generally favorable toward our projects with some concerns expressed. The comments from ReSources were opposed to using our projects as offsets for rural wells. A discussion with ReSources is being arranged.
- d. Nooksack Tribe water right adjudication request – may create more pressure for Ecology although there are numerous other adjudication requests pending as well.
- e. Drought declaration – grant opportunity that may help us with some seasonal transfers <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Drought-emergency-grants-2019>

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Pangborn Ditch update – Frank Corey is preparing a Notice of Activity for the cleanout this fall. The board suggested the need for 1300' of cleaning and mitigation by planting the south side in shrubs. Keith requested that the design consider future needs to access the stream to remove blockages. Andy moved to apply up to \$10k of project funds to assist the cleanout costs and mitigation, Keith seconded, motion passed unanimously. Brad will alert Virgil Stremmer. We'll discuss with Terry at future meetings what DID #31 can contribute.

- b. Vander Waal – future work on Johnson Creek was discussed. Something like the work done in the Ten Mile near Chasteen Road was advanced as something that could be advanced.
- c. Beaver trapping – Fred noted that the trapping USDA has been providing through Family Farmers may be cancelled. Family Farmers has been subsidizing this work and can't continue to do so.
- d. Drainage projects – County and WDFW met with all WIDs about projects – no road ditch projects in the Sumas were discussed.
- e. Update on Floodplains by Design discussions and potential projects – Fred outlined the status of the proposed flood mgt project on ag lands. It is funded for \$500k and we proposed several areas on the River to consider. However, we have also made it clear that farmer participation is on a two-way street. We will give but we also need to have our needs addressed. These are primarily in sediment management and water rights.
 - a. Sediment management looked to be advancing with a bill reaching the governor that would foster a discussion over sediment management. But this was line item vetoed.
 - b. Water rights discussions have been in neutral for months even though the drainage based management task in the Water Management's 5-year workplan had this process planned to be underway last fall.

Fred canceled a planned tour of projects set for May 31st because of these setbacks. That led to a meeting with Paula and the Nooksacks which began to renew our partnership with them on these matters.
- f. Ditch mowing partnership with County Road Dept. – We had some initial response to the request for discussion with the County but nothing lately. Henry and Keith will reconnect with them about the potential partnership.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David reported that samples in the past months were good. Since summer testing rarely reveals much information David is inclined to suspend sampling at many of the sites over the summer concentrating only on the mainstem of the Sumas River as it enters BC. The board agreed with this approach.
- b. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – Fred noted this work was gaining some traction in BC.
- c. Landowner letter – Fred anticipates sending another “be alert” letter to landowners prior to fall manure applications. He also reported that compliance with the CAFO permit's ban of any manure applications in October was leading farmers to engage in riskier practices. A change in this permit would benefit water quality.
- d. Report on landowner contacts – David reported one landowner contact.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.sumaswid.com
- b. Newsletter – out in June

VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Sept 10

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____