

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: October 12, 2021 Meeting, 1 pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 839 2368 7548 Passcode: 278660

<u> </u> o <u> </u> Terry Lenssen	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Andy Enfield	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Keith Boon
<u> </u> x <u> </u> Alan Sytsma	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Brad Rader	
<u> </u> t <u> </u> David Heeringa	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Henry Bierlink	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Fred Likkel
<u> </u> Alan Chapman	<u> </u> t <u> </u> Jay Chennault	<u> </u> x <u> </u> Darryl Van Weerdhuizen

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

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:11.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of September 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

Keith moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Al seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Executive Session – Brad called the meeting into Executive Session at 1:15. Discussion with legal counsel on authority of WIDs and potential litigation – up to 30 minutes. (Board members only). Brad called the meeting back to order at 1:44.

III. Administrative

- a. Annexations – only Dave de Waard was added to the Roll.
- b. Board nominations – Keith needs to be nominated. He signed the form intending his acceptance of the nomination.
- c. AWB Budget request – lower than 2021, encouragement for WIDs to budget for water right acquisition, project development, and legal reserve to address adjudication.
- d. 2022 Workplan & Budget
 - Resolution 2021-1 – Setting the 2022 Assessment Rate and Budget
 - Resolution 2020-2 – Adopting the 2022 Assessment Roll
 - November 9th Board of Equalization

DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE – all Watershed Improvement Districts

Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – two positions in Bertrand, one in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, one in South Lynden, and one in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o'clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.

2) Inspect the 2022 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in Laurel will be heard at 10am, November 8th; for Bertrand at 2pm, November 8th; for Sumas at 1pm, November 9th; for South Lynden at 3pm, November 9th; for North Lynden at 9am, November 16th; and for Drayton at 3pm, November 16th, all at the District's office or via Zoom. Contact the WID administrator for access to the meeting@ info@agwaterboard.com. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 12th to November 5th.

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts' offices located at 204 Hawley Street, Lynden.

Public Notice must be published in Lynden Tribune October 13, 20, 27

The Board stressed the need to show value to farmers for the assessments collected. Any increase should be justified by additional services provided. The large increase planned for our project budget has been targeted for items such as legal research on flow claims, acquiring water rights for the WID, and providing technical information for support of water rights claims. A letter to all WID parcel owners should make the purpose of the increase clear. It should explain what we have done and what the increase will allow us to do.

Andy moved to set the rate at \$10/acre, Al seconded, motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate
 - October 21st Watershed Mgt Board mtg
 - Solutions Table discussion with Jay and Maia
 - Project proposals from Tribes, PUD, Land Trust, and AWB
- b. Project List – add, edit, prioritize – focus on surface to ground conversions – Jay will provide a list of surface water rights tied to current ownership. The board was challenged to review this list with consideration of the size of the right (likely over .5 cfs to significant enough) and complexity of making the transfer (fewer unrelated owners).
- c. Water Rights list – develop strategy to obtain rights – Jay will provide a complete list of rights tied to current ownership within the month. The board is challenged to locate rights that may be underused or in danger of relinquishment.

V. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Ditch maintenance
 - Trapline area needs to wait until next summer, beaver trapping is occurring
- b. Beaver trapping – no update from Travis

VI. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David sent a recent report
- b. Report on landowner contacts – David is working with a landowner with concerns.

VII. Education/Communications

- a. Website – www.sumaswid.com
- b. Family Farmers Rally – November 17th
- c. Board meeting in Sumas – consider holding the December 14th meeting there.

VIII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Darryl VW came before the board to request being excluded from the WID. He noted that the drainage issues around his farm have been presented to the WID but ignored. The board examined the issues in that area and asked him to give us another chance to address them.

IX. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Meeting was adjourned at 3:12. Next meeting is November 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____