

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – April 9, 2024

Attendees

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

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Al Sytsma Andy Enfield Terry Lenssen Brad Rader	Keith Boon

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Katie Faber (t)	AESI
Elizabeth Hayes	Whatcom Conservation District
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers
Frank Corey	Whatcom Conservation District
David Haggith	N3 Consulting

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Darrell Gray (t)	NSEA

Proceedings

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from March 12 meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports and voucher in the amount of \$15,155.63 were reviewed.
- d. Andy moved to approve the consent agenda. Al seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. The board members signed the reformatted version of the previously approved Res. 2024-02.

3. FEMA Projects

- a. Gavin provided a FEMA update. The contract with Reichhardt & Ebe for Lower Sumas A&E work has been signed, and work is underway. Next item will be to adopt new procurement policy, and begin procurement process for the other projects.

4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an adjudication update. ECY estimates that 30,000 parcels will need service. Expect adjudication to be filed in mid-May, with service occurring later in the year.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided a FLIP update. Timelines are looking better now, but there are no easy answers or solutions.
- b. Drainage issues were discussed.
 - i. Darrell provided an update on Pangborn Creek project. NRCS is providing \$110k. Total project cost is \$146k. NSEA is providing \$17.5k, leaving \$18k unfunded. Terry recommended talking to DID#31. He will send contact info for Dale Devries to Gavin, who will pass it on to Darrell.
 - ii. Lindsay Rd drainage issues were discussed. Gavin visited the area to investigate, and will continue conversations with landowners in the area. Al provided contact info for a railroad employee who may be able to provide assistance with the easement.
 - iii. Frank provided an update on Saar Creek issues. Drainage district cleared a riparian area on Saar Creek upstream of sediment trap. Currently a WDFW enforcement action. They might hand off to county for CAO violation. Discussion about interface with FEMA projects at that location
- c. Brief discussion about the new buffer program. Gavin and Frank will send a letter to priority landowners.
- d. Gavin provided an update on beaver management. A number of beavers have been trapped on Breckenridge Creek; the trapper working to get rest of the family out of there as well

6. Water Quality

- a. David provided a WQ update. Numbers have been very poor lately. Discussion followed about location and timing of poor counts.

7. Communications / Education

- a. Fred provided an update on the water rights info evening. Nearly 400 people attended. Gavin and Fred noted they have received many continued requests for information.
- b. Gavin is working on potential for more water rights office hours using adjudication filing assistance funding from Whatcom County.

8. Other

- a. Gavin provided OPMA training for Brad, Andy, and Al.

9. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for May 14.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13pm

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by  _____