

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: January 9, 2018 Meeting, 1 - 3 pm

Ag Central 1796 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264

o Terry Lenssen o Andy Enfield t Keith Boon
x Rod Perry x Brad Rader

x David Haggith x Henry Bierlink x Dillon Honcoop
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of November 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>11/1/2017</u>	<u>Last Month</u>	<u>12/1/2017</u>	<u>ANNUAL TOTAL</u>
2017 Assessments Received		\$13,361.59		\$94,785.61
Fund Balance	\$63,772.73		\$77,134.32	
Beginning Year Balance			\$65,365.97	
Outstanding bills:				\$7,405.19
Ag Water Board	<i>Jan AWB</i>		\$6,285.19	
N3	<i>Water Quality testing</i>		\$1,120.00	
End of Month Balance				\$69,729.13
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Balance</u>
AWB	75,384	75,384.00		0.00
Projects	13,110	11,760.00		1,350.00
Insurance/Adm	4,191	3,938.86		252.14
	92,685	91,082.86	\$0.00	1,602.14

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

II. Administrative

- a. Election of Chair for 2018 – Keith moved to keep Brad as chair, Rod seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Audit Review – a brief discussion of what the Audit covered and the Audit results was held. Brad noted he had talked to the Auditor and all seems to be in order.
- c. AWB response to request to reallocate administrative budget – the AWB considered this request and could understand the logic Sumas used to make it. But the result of taking this step would be to decimate the project budgets of smaller WIDs like North Lynden, Drayton, and Laurel. Since Sumas is assessing at a lower rate than all the other WIDs there was not support for making this change. It could be brought up at the March AWB meeting if Sumas wants to resubmit a revised request.
- d. Review Priority Issue and Activity lists – Develop 2018 Action priorities – tabled until more commissioners are present.

III. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David distributed results November numbers were high but December were quite good with a few exceptions. It was determined that another meeting in Sumas is merited. We will shoot for a February lunch meeting. The WID meeting would be held at 11 with a lunch meeting over water quality to follow.
- b. Publicizing Results – the new interactive map of water quality monitoring by numerous organizations was displayed. A question of whether the Sumas WIDs numbers should be published was raised and discussed.
- c. South Lynden source tracking project – David noted the data analysis would be done in January. Results are expected to be reported at the South Lynden WID’s February meeting.

- d. Report on landowner contacts – David has been in regular contact with a landowner where high numbers have been detected.

IV. Water Supply

- a. Hirst/Foster fix bills – Bertrand is proposed as a pilot project in the “Foster Fix” bill.
- b. Review and discuss “Next Steps” draft from AWB Board – The board was presented with some background on how the Watershed Management Board has developed and what opportunity there is to help them focus on some tangible tasks in the near future. The AWB’s proposal to engage in developing agreements through drainage based management plans is one of the major ideas being considered. Other tasks include water quantity and quality monitoring, further development of the surface and groundwater models and budgets, and a basin-wide Water Supply Plan.

AWB has tentatively approved the “Next Steps” proposal but needs to vet it with each WID before taking it to a broader audience. The WIDs are asked to agree with continuing work on developing the proposal and for ideas to make it better. SWID discussion raised numerous questions with much of the discussion about how the Tribal fish concerns might be addressed so that the Tribes would see drainage based management as a significant step in resorting fish runs. There are questions if farmers have anything within their control to actually address fish restoration needs.

The Board agreed to keep the dialogue going with the AWB which intends to hold several Strategy Development Sessions between their quarterly board meetings. All WID commissioners are encouraged to participate. The next session is scheduled for 1pm on January 30th.

- c. Support from State via \$450k budget request – The AWB, PUD, and Whatcom County request for State assistance in implementing the WRIA #1 Management Plan is likely to be funded from an allocation to Ecology coming out of the Hirst/Foster fix bills being debated. This would provide for much of the expense of implementing the drainage based management concept.

V. Drainage/Habitat

- a. Fish/Flood meeting – Fred provided notes which summarized the discussion between farmers and Ned Curran (Nooksack) and Alan Chapman (Lummi). All agreed it was a valuable exchange of information. Fish runs are down 25% from the time when they were listed. Concerns are placed more upstream and in the ocean than in the lower watershed. But we can do something and the farmers agree we need to do our part.
- b. Ditch maintenance
 - Saar trap cleaning and ditch spraying support request. The board doesn’t have enough budget to address the \$15k in expenses. Nor did the board believe that one portion of the WID should get a high percentage of the project dollars. But some help is likely merited. The board determined they would offer \$2,500 and get feedback from DID #15.
- c. 5-year programmatic permit – Frank has nearly completed this permit. It will be ready to apply for the Pangborn ditch cleanout this fall.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.sumaswid.com
- b. Educational Forums – The WCD reminded the board of two upcoming educational events – the Manure Management Training on January 10th and the Small Farm Expo on February 24th.

VII. Ag Water Board

- a. Winter newsletter – A newsletter is planned in February – the Sumas WID report should include the Pangborn ditch bridge replacement, planned drainage work and the new 5-year permit, water quality monitoring, and regular interaction with landowners.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

February 13

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____