

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: October 11, 2022 Meeting, 1pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89966102410?pwd=dThwNHVvUmtuRzFSMTZEdWVEbEprdz09>

Meeting ID: 899 6610 2410 Passcode: 658373

<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Terry Lenssen	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Andy Enfield	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Keith Boon
<u>  </u> o <u>  </u> Alan Sytsma	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Brad Rader	
<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> David Haggith	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Henry Bierlink	<u>  </u> x <u>  </u> Fred Likkel
<u>  </u> o <u>  </u> Jay Chennault	<u>  </u> Nicole Fink	<u>  </u> Katie Faber
<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Cynthia May	<u>  </u> Mike Horat	<u>  </u> t <u>  </u> Bill Clarke

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

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:08.

### I. Consent Agenda

- Review and Approval of September 13, 2022 minutes
- [Financial Report](#)

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

### II. Administrative

- Board nominations – Terry and Alan have terms ending. Andy nominated both Terry and Alan for another term, Keith seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- [AWB Budget request](#) – Board reviewed the request which included added legal costs and encouragement for WIDs to budget for water right acquisition. This will mean a \$129,149 budget for the SWID.
- 2023 Workplan & Budget
  - Resolution 2022-1 – Setting the 2023 Assessment Rate and Budget
    - Andy moved to adopt Resolution 2022-1, keep the acre assessment at \$10, and the total budget at \$190,480, Terry seconded, motion carried unanimously.
  - Resolution 2022-2 – Adopting the 2023 Assessment Roll
    - Terry moved to adopt Resolution 2022-2, Andy seconded, motion carried unanimously.
  - November 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Equalization will be held to begin the meeting.

#### **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 – one position in Bertrand, two in Drayton, two in Laurel, two in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two 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 2023 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 14<sup>th</sup>; for Bertrand at 2pm, November 14<sup>th</sup>; for Sumas at 1pm, November 8<sup>th</sup>; for South Lynden at 3pm, November 8<sup>th</sup>; for North Lynden at 9am, November 15<sup>th</sup>; and for Drayton at 3pm, November 15<sup>th</sup>, all at the District's office or via Zoom. Contact the WID administrator for access to the meeting @ [info@agwaterboard.com](mailto:info@agwaterboard.com). The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 18<sup>th</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*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 19, 26, and November 2

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Water supply update
  - Somach Law – alternate to adjudication – federal settlement idea being vetted
  - Ecology floating “Solutions Showcase” – learning from the [Yakima example](#). We should submit questions and connect with the Yakima farmers involved prior to the October 27<sup>th</sup> WMB meeting.
  - Ecology budget request – Bill noted they asked the Legislature for \$2.75 million for the next biennium. This would not cover the expenses of the Attorney General or the Whatcom Superior Court. We are drafting a response that would point the Legislature towards more effective and efficient means of addressing the numerous water issues.
  - [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table
    - Surface to ground conversion candidates – grant application denied. Will be debriefing with Ecology soon to understand why.
- b. Water Right acquisition candidates
  - AWB to establish – [Whatcom Ag Water Exchange](#) – in process
  - Draft [Mailing to all WID members](#) – will be sent once the Exchange is set up.
  - Follow-up with key acquisition candidates

### IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Flood update – design charrette @ Tuesday’s meeting. Fred noted some signs of progress as illustrated by the side channel created near the Everson bridge.
- b. FEMA update – expectation will be to accomplish most of this work in 2023. There was some confusion over the WID’s authority and responsibility. Our authority is clear but how to define our responsibility or obligation to maintain drainage is not as clear. We are obligated to provide services to the assessment paying landowners and we expect to establish temporary easements to conduct the needed flood repair work to make our obligation and expectations of landowners clear. Keith moved to adopt Resolution 2022-3 which restates our relationship with landowners and FEMA to make our relationships clear, Terry seconded, motion carried unanimously.
  - Landfill concerns – David provided a report on the samples he submitted which indicate non-detectable levels of asbestos. We expect this should address the concerns over using local disposal sites.
  - Easements – Bill will draft a template for us adapt and we will begin the process of identifying all the landowners where easements are needed.
  - Funding – the 5% WID funds remain a concern. There are several efforts underway with the state and county to fill this gap. The board sensed that each project should require board approval prior to action to ensure we don’t over extend our ability to meet our obligations.
- c. Ditch maintenance
  - De Jong request – a letter to the County from the WID seems the best course at this time.
  - Trapline area – some contacts have been made with landowners, more are needed.
- d. WCD Update – [parcel fee proposed](#) - County Council public hearing on Oct 25th. – Alan reviewed the purpose of the proposal which is to provide a funding base for the WCD which is currently nearly solely reliant on grant funding. A letter of support from the WIDs and AWB would be appreciated. The board noted they appreciated the funding package which is based on parcels rather than acres. The net result is ag would be providing approximately \$30k of the \$590k revenue. The services provided by the WCD were also appreciated but the loss of an ag engineer to help with EQIP contracts was sorely missed.
- e. Beaver trapping – DID #31 is doing a fair amount of trapping.

**V. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results Monitoring Results – David noted that most recent numbers were from very low flow areas. Even with that challenge the numbers have not been high.

**VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.sumaswid.com](http://www.sumaswid.com)
- b. Legislative Tour - November– Henry explained that once we have a clear ask of the Legislature as they consider the funding of the adjudication Bill will help to bring some key legislators to Whatcom and we will show them sites to illustrate our request.

**VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Brad adjourned the meeting at 2:32. Next meeting is November 8.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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