

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 13, 2023, 1 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89271264400?pwd=R1pzNWFRa2hWazFsT1JSZWRZenZxQT09>

<u>  x  </u> Terry Lenssen	<u>  t  </u> Andy Enfield	<u>  x  </u> Keith Boon
<u>  x  </u> Alan Sytsma	<u>  t  </u> Brad Rader	
<u>      </u> David Haggith	<u>  x  </u> Henry Bierlink	<u>  x  </u> Fred Likkel
<u>  x  </u> Ross Widener	<u>      </u> Joel Ingram	<u>      </u> Frank Corey
<u>  t  </u> Jay Chennault	<u>  x  </u> Gavin Willis	<u>  t  </u> Katie Faber
<u>      </u> Brandy Reed	<u>      </u> Mike Horat	<u>      </u> Anna Beebe
<u>      </u> Bill Clarke	<u>  x  </u> Sunny Aulakh	<u>  t  </u> Alan Chapman
<u>      </u> Dave Schoonover	<u>  t  </u> Dale Buys	<u>      </u> Nicole Fink

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

Terry called the meeting to order at 1:08.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 11 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
S0623	AWB	January - February	\$21,524.76
S0623	Widener Consulting	FEMA consulting - Feb - April	\$13,156.70
S0623	City of Sumas	FEMA projects	\$29,364.46
<b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b>			<b>\$64,045.92</b>

Keith moved approval of the consent agenda, Al seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### II. Ag Water Board/Water Supply – Henry reported . . .

- a. Watershed Management Board working on a new 5-year plan
  - Add settlement, flood, drainage, land use to work plan
  - Add request for full vote for AWB – pending
  - \$350k per year – not available until adjudication is filed, concern over timeline
- b. Local Government Caucus meetings
  - Appointed PUD as Chair – Brad noted that the PUD Commissioners were showing a keen interest in learning about ag needs. We should make a point of inviting them to some water discussions in the future.
  - Agreeing to listen to federal settlement idea
- c. Jay and Katie reported Ecology has suggested the adjudication is not likely to be filed until early 2024.

### III. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. FEMA update
  - The board approved payment for all the Sumas 2022 work
  - Submit FEMA reimbursement claims should begin soon
  - HUD \$\$\$ thru Commerce – approved for \$4.5m
  - Procurement of clearing, survey, engineering, construction – Sumas is willing to get the brush cleaning contract and engineering contracts in place but the contracts will have to be with the SWID. The engineer would arrange the surveying. Realistically, it will be difficult to have the surveying and engineering done before the fish window this fall.
  - Cashflow loan – Commerce – offering loan up to \$1m @ 1.72% - Henry presented a cash flow projection that indicates the need to have more funds available to meet anticipated expenses in 2023 before the FEMA reimbursements are coming in. Should we borrow and how much, and at what terms?

- FEMA is asking us to line up the next phase of work ASAP. We had in mind to look at the entire drainage in at least three phases:
    - Border to Morgan Road – Sumas City arranging contracts – Keith arranging landowner agreements
    - Morgan Road to ???? – Potentially Everson helping with contracting and ???? with landowner contacts/agreements
    - South of Everson – Everson helping with contracts and ??? with landowner contacts/agreements
  - Is there an alternate phasing that would be more realistic?
  - Brad and Andy expressed concern we are making long term decisions without clear understanding of the implications. Ross agreed to prepare a presentation outlining the current status of the entire project and send to the board early next week. Once we have time to review and discuss it we would determine if and when a special meeting would be called to act on this information.
  - In anticipation of the need to move in a timely manner Andy moved to appoint Gavin as the SWID's Project and Investment/Cash Manager so that contacts can be signed in an expeditious manner after board approval, Keith seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- b. FLIP update - Fred noted recent studies have indicated a large amount of sediment accumulating in the Nugents Corner to Everson reach.
  - c. Ditch maintenance –
    - Jones Rd. ditch – needs to get on the County road ditch cleaning schedule
    - De Jong's – Gavin has talked with PW – Board directs a letter to Satpal outlining the need to address this.
  - d. Trapline drainage – Terry noted the area would be sprayed to reduce the vegetation which would provide a better look at the options.
  - e. Buffers
    - State providing at least \$25m for buffers
    - Conservation Commission charged with developing workable standards
    - Boardf agreed to sending the key landowners letter that we've been working on inviting a discussion over how the new flexibility in buffer design might promote more buffers and take the pressure off the mandatory buffer advocates.
  - f. Beaver trapping – USDA contract is in place.

#### **IV. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – updated data results were reviewed. Few areas of concern.

#### **V. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.sumaswid.com](http://www.sumaswid.com)
- b. Senator Cantwell staff tour – June 30<sup>th</sup> – get a better understanding of the flooding issues but also an opportunity to link to the water settlement idea.

#### **VI. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

Terry adjourned the meeting at 2:47. Next scheduled meetings are September 12, October 10

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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