

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: March 14, 2023, 1 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88631678960>

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

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

Terry called the meeting to order at 1:02

Lynden HS FFA Public Policy Presentation "To Dredge or Not To Dredge?" is 15 minutes long with a time for any questions or comments following.

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 10 and February 2 Minutes
- b. Financial Report

| <u>Voucher #</u>     | <u>Payee</u>   | <u>Purpose</u>             | <u>Amount</u>     |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| S0323                | N 3 Consulting | fecal and asbestos samples | \$1,822.25        |
| <b>TOTAL VOUCHER</b> |                |                            | <b>\$1,822.25</b> |

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

### II. Administrative

- a. Loan progress for Sumas WID:
  - The proposed system of transfer is an interlocal agreement with AWB, DWID, LWID, BWID, SLWID, NLWID, and the SWID
  - LWID and DWID lend \$25,000, SLWID and BWID lend \$50,000, DWID lends \$40,000 to AWB, which in turn lends \$190,000 to SWID
  - a 60-day callback on the funds is in the agreement
  - Terms of the agreement is March 1 through Dec 31, 2023
  - Funds are available from AWB Loan Program when needed

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Ecology adjudication budget request and proposed legislation – HB 1792 - Henry updated the board on the legislature's progress on the adjudication funding and filing request. HB 1792 has passed out of the House on a 97-0 vote and is in the Senate.
- b. Budget proviso – tech data and adjudication assistance – will be determined near the end of the session in April.
- c. [Project List](#) ready for distribution to the appropriate discussion table – an out-of-stream water users group where proposals can be vetted scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>

### IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. FEMA update
  - OR spotted frog holding things up
  - No payment to Sumas yet or invoices to FEMA
  - Survey of Sumas River proceeding – Right of Entry Agreements are ready to be taken to the landowners needing to give us access to the survey
  - Jordan and USFW are kayaking the River to examine spotted frog habitat soon.

- b. Ditch maintenance – discussion with County on what road ditches need cleaning is upcoming. Al mentioned the mess behind Jay De Jong’s. It is in no-mans-land as the County doesn’t care because it is not affecting roads and the pipeline is scared to do anything. The board suggested a pointed letter to Satpal to see if we can get some resolution of this matter.
- c. Buffers
  - Fred updated the board on the status of buffers in Olympia. There seems to be a wave of funding coming but little agreement on what standards will need to be met.
  - WCD worksession – Frank displayed a [map showing buffer areas](#) and included a [buffer list](#) for all the WIDs. Sumas has over 400 miles of stream bank with fish and is roughly 50% in the green and yellow, and 50% in the red category.
  - Discussion about incentive payments to landowners for buffers. Annual rentals are one option, purchasing a conservation easement is another. Funding is available via State Conservation Commission, CREP, and NRCS; best funding source may vary depending on details specific to each project. There is also potential in the future for continuing income related to ecological benefits from buffers. The WID may be a more responsive entity when it comes to that than the county, land trusts, etc.
  - Discussion about buffer width and management. Recognition that 200’+ buffers are not acceptable, but that 10’ buffers will probably not meet requirements. Data shows that 35’-50’ buffers provide 80-90% of the benefit of SPTH buffers. Also a need to be able to manage the drainage (including mitigating impacts from beavers and sediment buildup, and removal of invasive species).
  - Discussion about Frank’s proposed letter to landowners in the WID. Letter generally looks good, although may need info about buffer size and landowner incentives. Was determined best to send letter to landowners in areas where buffers can have the greatest impact, likely soon after the session. Frank will come to the next meeting with a list of key landowners, and the WID can send out the letter once we have more information about available funding sources.
- d. FLIP - Fred provided an update on FLIP progress. The Reach 5 FLIP team is scheduled to meet on April 28<sup>th</sup>, and is starting to think about how to prioritize action items. Gavin and Fred will be at a meeting with the small cities on Friday, Mar 17 about expanding the span of the Everson bridge. WSDOT would like to know if they need to do anything, and the county does not seem to have any recommendations.
- e. Beaver trapping – Terry reported that DD #31 had contracted with USDA to trap by the hour. He has a \$20k budget and already has several beaver.

## V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – Anna reported no issues in recent sampling. David noted some localized issues.
- b. Sustainable Farms and Fields – Anna alerted the board to grant opportunities with this program.
- c. Asbestos – David reported that all the samples he submitted from the Sumas River show some indication of asbestos presence.

## VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website – [www.sumaswid.com](http://www.sumaswid.com)

## VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

Brad adjourned the meeting at 2:47. The next meeting is scheduled for April 11 but attention to the field work weather may require cancellation. The goal is to have at least 1 more spring meeting before the July, August break.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

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