

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: November 12, 2019 Meeting, 1 - 3 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

 t Terry Lenssen x Andy Enfield x Keith Boon
 x Alan Sytsma x Brad Rader

 x David Haggith x Henry Bierlink x Fred Likkel
 Alan Chapman x Scarlett Graham x Kyle Cassidy

x = present

o = absent with notice

t = teleconference

Board of Equalization Hearing

Public has opportunity to contest Assessments. WID board must determine if petitioners provide clear evidence they would not receive value from WID actions equal to the Assessment amount. WID Board could vote to eliminate or reduce the assessment on individual parcels. Once completed the Regular Board Meeting commences.

Terry opened the Board of Equalization Hearing. No comments or protests were noted. Andy moved to close the hearing at 1:05, Keith seconded, motion carried unanimously.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of October 8 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Ag Water Board	Oct - Dec	\$18,991.68
N3	Aug, Sept	\$690.00
Enduris	Insurance	\$2,440.00
Len Honcoop Gravel	Pangborn Creek	3,030.68
Keith Boon	Boon drainage project	\$20,600.00
TOTAL - Month		\$45,752.54

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

II. Administrative

- a. Board nominations – Terry and Alan are the only nominees. Congratulations!

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management pilot – Bertrand, South Fork and Drayton – meetings of technical committee begin this month, Tribes are both at the table in each pilot. The schedule has been drafted to complete these pilots by July. Future drainages will be considered based on the success of the pilots. The Water Supply committee of the AWB will be closely connected with Fred and Henry in this process. WID Boards will be updated each meeting and will solicited for feedback and advice.
- b. AWB Grant from Ecology - \$150k for 2 years – scope expected to be approved in November.
 - Develop Project Lists – surface to ground and augmentation potential sites
 - Implement 2 conversions, 1 augmentation project
- c. South Fork organization options – South Fork Valley is likely more connected to the South Lynden WID. The area north of the river and south of the Sumas WID boundaries should be considered for annexation in the future. Henry was asked to prepare a parcel list of this area for consideration at the January meeting.

IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Pangborn Ditch project – cleaning proceeded as planned. We are splitting the expense with DID #31. The area is prepared for planting in the spring. Beaver are a big problem upstream.
- b. Swift Creek meeting – no one attended.

- c. Pilot project w/County on Ditch maintenance – Keith reported that the initial project in cooperation with the County Public Works was the Rock Road culvert. The improvements made to the drainage there had improved the drainage on Rock Road significantly.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – David reported some high fall numbers. WSDA also noticed some risky practices and their testing has resulted in several Notices of Correction. Al questioned the wisdom of setting hard no-application dates. Applying to high areas with cover crops would be less risk for pollution. David will draft a letter from the SWID to open up this conversation with WSDA.

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.sumaswid.com
- b. AWB Newsletter – a draft was reviewed for the January AWB newsletter.
- c. WFF – REAL campaign – Farmer Rally November 21
- d. Project List – Andy asked for a bulleted list of actions taken by the SWID. Sending people to the website for this information is helpful but we need a more immediate, quick, printed summary of what we are doing to communicate with our landowners.

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

WCD's Scarlett Graham asked for feedback on the installation of new and upgraded Ag WeatherNet stations. Points made in the discussion are:

- The current AgWeatherNet station at the Nooksack HS doesn't meet meteorological standards and isn't recording accurate data. The Nooksack station records less precip than nearby stations. As an example, Clearbrook posted data from Jan 1 to May 31 in 2019, with a total precipitation amount of **17.72 inches** while the nearby WSU station reported only **11.03 inches**. During this same period, BC Climate **reported 19.52 inches** in Abbotsford.
- AgWeatherNet wishes to site 1-2 stations in the Sumas Area –Tier 1 and Tier 2.
- Feedback from the WID: Keeping the Tier 1 weather station in the vicinity of the current AgWeatherNet Nooksack station and the Perry NOAA station would be the first choice to continue with a long term data set. If more space cannot be accommodated at the Nooksack HS, WCD will reach out to Al Systma who is currently farming at Rod Perry's.
- Keith Boon (Pro Turf Grower) has a potential location for a Tier 2 station on his property along Jones Rd. Appears to have good access, and distance from building, and landowner is willing to work with us on not irrigating the rain gauge. Scarlett will follow up with him.
- If other landowners in the area come to mind who are particularly interested in weather or graduates of WSU...please let WCD know.
- Basic site requirements are:
 - Tier 1: 32 ft by 32 ft area; Tier 2: 8 ft by 8 ft area
 - Site must be no closer than 10 times the height of the nearest, tallest object to that object. (i.e. 10 foot building, needs 100 foot buffer).
 - Exceptions can be made for corn crop and power lines. This is not ideal.
 - Site will be vegetated; Site must not be impacted by irrigation.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

December 10 – opportunity to have the Sumas meeting focusing on water quality, 11:30 am
January 14

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____