

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – September 9, 2025, 1 pm

Attendees

"(t)" indicates presence via tele-conference. "(p)" indicates proxy vote.

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Brad Rader Al Sytsma Andy Enfield	Terry Lenssen Keith Boon

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Tania Grim	Ag Water Board
Katie Faber (t)	AESI
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Helen Solem (t)	Sumas River Farm
Sunny Aulakh	Sumas Public Works

Proceedings

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

1. Consent Agenda

- The agenda was reviewed.
- Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed.
- The financial report was reviewed.
- Voucher S.Gen.0625B in the amount of \$4086.60 was reviewed.
- Voucher S.LS.0625 in the amount of \$1267.04 was reviewed.
- Voucher S.Gen.0725 in the amount of \$5120.00 was reviewed.
- Voucher S.Gen.0825 in the amount of \$15,039.64 was reviewed.
- Andy moved to approve the consent agenda. Al seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- AWB budget work plan was discussed.

3. FEMA Projects

- Gavin gave a FEMA update.
 - The state and FEMA are in talks about already allocated funds.
 - There are ongoing challenges with obligated A&E funds. The State is in discussions with FEMA. While Construction will move forward, engineering is currently on hold.

4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- Gavin gave an adjudication update.
- There was a good turn out to the hearing in Lynden on September 8, 2025.

- i. 6000 landowners need to be served. This will take place by public docket in a county newspaper.
- ii. Ecology will have to notify all landowners that all future notices will be by public docket. Landowners will be responsible for staying informed. Postcards with this info are expected to be sent by the end of October.
- iii. The state budget came out. \$600,000 was requested for technical support. \$200,000 was given. \$1.4 million was requested and granted for court capital costs. \$200,000 was requested and denied for settlement costs. Roughly \$2.8 million was requested and denied for court operating costs. Ecology received all the funds requested.
- c. Judge will not allow motions to be filed until all landowners are served.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred gave a FLIP update.
 - i. FLIP is recognizing that Widen the Funnel will move more sediment downstream, so they are looking at extending that work further downstream.
- b. WCFCZD is using WID permit to clean Johnson Creek south of Main St.
- c. Ditch spray was discussed.
 - i. Gavin will connect with landowner on Osgood Ditch to do ditch spray.
- d. Beaver management was discussed.
 - i. If anyone hears of anything, let Gavin know.
- e. Fred shared about a recent Forest tour.
 - i. Fred mentioned recent developments in riparian buffers in working forest lands.
 - ii. Forest practices board is looking to further restrict logging adjacent to NP-type streams

6. Water Quality

- a. No current update.
- b. Fred noted a recent Cascadia Daily article about air pollution from farms. The article had numerous errors.

7. Next Meeting

- a. Next scheduled meeting is October 7 at 1:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 1:43

Submitted by Tania Grim, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

