

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – March 11, 2025 1:00pm

## Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

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

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Tania Grim	Ag Water Board
Katie Faber (t)	AESI
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Elizabeth Link	Whatcom Conservation District

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gary DeBont (t)	Landowner
Helen Solem (t)	Sumas River Farm

## Proceedings

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:33pm

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. The agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed.
- c. The financial report was reviewed.
- d. Voucher S.Gen.0325 in the amount of \$12,879.17 was reviewed.
- e. Voucher S.LS.0325 in the amount of \$2178.50 was reviewed.
- f. Terry moved to approve the consent agenda. Al seconded. Motioned carried unanimously.

### 2. Administration

- a. Keith to sign Oath of Office at April meeting.

### 3. FEMA Projects

- a. Gavin shared a draft of Supplement 3 for the contract with Widener & Associates that would continue their work.
- b. Andy moved to approve Supplement 3. Al seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Gavin shared an update on work on obligating the remaining projects. Surveying of the sediment trap was conducted last week.

### 4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin gave an adjudication update.

- i. SB5212, which will allow pre-code water users without statement of claim to file in the adjudication, went through the senate unanimously. The next step is a hearing at the house.
  - ii. Ecology has indicated that summons will go out next week. This could take a while. The goal is everyone in the adjudication will receive their summons by May 1. One delivery attempt will be made. If not successful, property owner will have to pick up summons from post office. If this is unsuccessful, pick up will be at Ecology. Followed by public notice once the above have all been exhausted.
  - iii. Bill is setting up a meeting with the Director of Ecology to discuss potential settlement options.
- b. Office hours are available for sign-up on Ag Water Board website April 17 and May 7.

**5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood**

- a. Gavin provided a FLIP update.
  - i. There is meeting scheduled this week to discuss Sumas flood preparedness.
- b. Gavin will communicate with Drainage District regarding Paatstel Creek.
- c. There was discussion about drainage in Osgood Ditch, which appears to be overrun by canary grass. Spaying the grass will be explored.

**6. Water Quality**

- a. No update

**7. Communications / Education**

- a. Landowners will get letters regarding surveying crews this summer for LS project.
- b. Water rights information evening that was planned for later this month has been cancelled.

**8. Other**

- a. A question was brought forward from a landowner related to a specific drainage.

**9. Next Meeting**

Next scheduled meeting will be April 14.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:11pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by 