

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – APRIL 8, 2025, 1PM

Attendees

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

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

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

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

Proceedings

Meeting was called to order at 1:34pm.

1. Consent Agenda

- The agenda was reviewed.
- Minutes from the March meeting were reviewed.
- The financial report was reviewed.
- Voucher S.Gen.0425 in the amount of \$29,598.24 was reviewed.
- Voucher S.LS.0425 in the amount of \$132.75 was reviewed.
- Keith moved to approve the consent agenda. Andy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- Keith signed the oath of office.

3. FEMA Projects

- Henry gave a FEMA update.
 - Progress in Lower Sumas is moving slowly. Surveying and engineering have been completed for Kneuman Ditch. Currently awaiting FEMA approval.
 - Commerce has nearly finalized its match funding program. Once finalized and published, the contract can be set up.

4. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- Henry gave an adjudication update.
- Currently all office hours are full.
 - Bill is drafting a letter to request more technical support.
- SB 5212 was amended and put back on the floor.

- d. Discussion regarding landowners who have been served but are not part of the adjudication.
 - i. Katie shared that there is a process in development that will allow these landowners to opt out. Additionally, they may contact Ecology for guidance.
 - ii. Those who were served with a valid summons will be required to fill out the form to retain their water rights.

5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided a FLIP update.
 - i. Smaller potential solutions are currently being explored.
 - ii. Fred will be stepping back from FLIP after the next meeting.
- b. Gavin will follow up with DD#31 commissioners regarding plans for Paatstel Creek and Johnson Creek near Moorlag Ditch.
 - i. DD#31 commissioners include Dale Van Weerdhuizen, Vernon Dykstra and Dan Heeringa.

6. Water Quality

- a. An update was provided via email. Overall, water quality appears to be good in most areas. There are 3 areas of concern that are consistently higher.
 - i. Bone and Hwy 9
 - ii. Mud and Jones rd.
 - iii. Mud and Rock rd.

7. Communications / Education

- a. Letters went out to 3 landowners regarding surveying.

8. Next Meeting

- a. Next scheduled meeting will be June 3

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Submitted by Tania Grim, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____

