

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 8, 2024

## Attendees

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

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

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

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

## Proceedings

Brad called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. September 10 meeting minutes were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports were reviewed.
- d. Voucher S-Gen-0924 in the amount of \$15,327.23 was reviewed.
- e. Voucher S.LS.0924 in the amount of \$185.00 was reviewed.
- f. Andy moved to approve the consent agenda. Keith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Administration

- a. Expiring board term of Keith was discussed. Keith indicated he'd be willing to serve another term.
  - i. Terry moved to renominate Keith. Andy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Budget and expenditures for the 2025 year were discussed.
  - i. Keith moved to approve the AWB budget request. Andy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
  - ii. Andy moved to approve Resolution 2024-04, setting the 2025 assessment rate at \$11.50. Terry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. The proposed assessment roll for 2025 was reviewed. No new territory was annexed or removed from the district this year.
  - i. Andy moved to approve Resolution 2024-05, adopting the 2025 assessment roll. Terry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. The November board meeting will also serve as the board of equalization.

### **3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply**

- a. Fred provided an update on the Sep 26<sup>th</sup> adjudication hearing. The judge didn't issue the summons, but instead asked ECY to make some changes. ECY intends to have everyone served by May, which would set May of 2026 as the deadline for claims filing. The steering committee will also be meeting soon for the first time.
- b. Gavin shared proposed legislation from Bill that would allow adjudication filings for pre-code water use to satisfy the claim filing requirement.

### **4. FEMA Projects**

- a. Gavin provided a FEMA update.
  - i. Physical survey work on the Lower Sumas project is completed, and mapping is now underway.
  - ii. Still awaiting EMD approval on the draft RFQ for the Kneuman Ditch project.

### **5. Drainage / Habitat / Flood**

- a. Fred provided a flood update. Doesn't sound like EPL will be looking to add on-site grain storage due to costs. FLIP work is ongoing related looking at ring dikes around Everson and Nooksack. Likely 5-10 years from that happening if it moves forward.
- b. Drainage issues were reviewed.
  - i. Lindsay Road is looking better.
  - ii. Gavin noted there has not been any follow up from the landowner on the Sumas River.
  - iii. Paatstel Creek spraying was discussed. Fred followed up with WRS about drone spray; sounds like it is not a full-time service due to lack of demand.
- c. No current beaver issues were noted.

### **6. Water Quality**

- a. Fred provided a WQ update. High counts across multiple streams at Jones Road.

### **7. Communications / Education**

- a. On Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> WFF will be hosting a water rights info event at the fairgrounds.
- b. Gavin noted that the county exec declined to provide funding for water rights office hours.
- c. WFF will be hosting their annual Farmer Rally on November 20.

### **8. Other**

- a. Fred noted that he has been hearing a lot of questions about the Sumas Out group.

### **9. Next Meetings**

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for November 12.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by 