

Sumas Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: September 12, 2017 Meeting, 10:30 – 1 pm

Sumas Bob's

Terry Lenssen Andy Enfield Keith Boon
 Rod Perry Brad Rader

David Haggith Henry Bierlink Ken Maarhuis
 Rod VandeHoef Cornie Vreugdenhil Javier Samperdo

For Lunch Meeting:

Kevin Elenbass Roger Bartels Larry Van Middendorp
 Del Heutink Mark Olsen Jay Van Middendorp
 Rolf Veening Doug Visser Marty Vreugdenhil
 Mike Horat Al Systma

x = present o = absent with notice t = teleconference

I. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of June 13 Minutes
- B. Financial Report and payment of bills

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Available</u>
Grant #1				
2017 Assessments Received		\$53,367.06		
Fund Balance 6/1/2017		\$80,317.88		
Fund Balance 7/1/2017		\$66,908.77		
Accounts Payable				
Invoices Submitted for reimbursement				
TOTAL Available				\$66,908.77
Outstanding bills:				\$16,446.00
Ag Water Board <i>July, Aug AWB Admin</i>			\$12,564.00	
Ag Water Board <i>meeting expenses</i>			\$161.00	
Enduris <i>insurance premium</i>			\$2,769.00	
N3 <i>Water quality monitoring</i>			\$952.00	
End of Month Balance				\$50,462.77
	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
AWB	75,384	50,256.00	25,128.00	
Projects	13,110	7,784.00	5,326.00	
Insurance/Adm	4,191	3,155.86	1,035.14	
	92,685	61,195.86	31,489.14	

Keith moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Terry seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administrative

- A. Review and approve Priority Issue and Activity lists

Priorities	2017 Action Priorities	Notes/Actions
1. Water Quality	Continued water quality testing	
	Consider a Fall meeting with landowners like was done in February	Held a Sept mtg
2. Water Rights	Support the AWB	

3. Agricultural protection		
4. Communication, Outreach, Education	Outreach and education with our land owners	Make spring board tour a regular event
	Ditch cleaning projects	
	Work with Lane Stremler on culvert replacements	

B. Review Comprehensive Plan – “The SWID will devote 5-10 minutes from each meeting in the future to review and update the Plan focusing on manageable sized sections” – Water Quality – the board determined to make a Spring tour a regular event. Keeping informed of the Swift Creek issues without becoming immersed in them was also noted.

C. 2018 Workplan & Budget

- 1) Budget planning for 2018 – assessment rates – AWB is likely to present a budget request very similar to 2017. The WID needs to assess its project needs and determine if a change in WID assessment rate is needed. A decision needs to be made at the October Board meeting. The SWID’s project budget is \$13,110. Anticipated expenses in 2018 include \$2,500 for a Programmatic drainage permit and \$1,000 in case of an election costs. That leaves \$9,610 for other projects. Support for the DID projects has been another area where the SWID has contributed. A Project list with anticipated costs was suggested to be developed. Andy moved to leave the 2018 Assessment rate at \$5/acre, Terry seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Nominations – Brad and Andy – Terry moved to nominate Brad and Andy for another three-year term, Keith seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Legal Notice - must be published in Lynden Tribune October 18, 25, November 1

DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE – all Watershed Improvement Districts

Residents within the Bertrand, Drayton, Laurel, North Lynden, South Lynden, and Sumas Watershed Improvement Districts have an opportunity to:

1) Nominate candidates for election to the Board of the District – one position in Bertrand, two in Drayton, two in Laurel, one in North Lynden, two in South Lynden, and two in Sumas – candidates must file with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, not later than five o’clock p.m. on the first Monday in November.

2) Inspect the 2018 Assessment Roll and represent your interests to the District Board which will serve as a Board of Equalization. Equalization issues in the Bertrand will be heard at 2pm, November 13th, for Sumas at 1pm, November 14th, for South Lynden at 3pm, November 14th, for Laurel at 10am, November 13th, for North Lynden at 10am, November 21st, and for Drayton at 3pm, November 21st, all at the District’s office. The Assessment Roles for all Districts are available for inspection from October 18th to November 11th.

Nomination forms and the assessment roles are available at the Districts’ offices located at 1796 Front Street, Lynden.

III. Water Quality

- A. Monitoring Results – David reported that the summer had low counts in most areas. Bone creek had a high count but very low flow. David was asked to note the amount of wildlife in the area. He suggested doing more storm sampling which the board supports.
- B. South Lynden source tracking project – adjustments on the experimental design have taken place due to the lack of rain this summer. It will be a Sept.- November project. \$125k is in the State budget for this kind of work. How and where it gets distributed is still being worked out.

IV. Water Supply

- A. Olympia Report – Hirst and funding for water projects – Olympia is stalemated. There is potential for a \$450k grant to the County to facilitate water discussions and help develop more management tools in the yet to be passed Capital Budget.
- B. Water Supply Work Group report – Henry noted that the Water Working Group was overseeing the following projects:

- i. Drought Contingency planning
 - ii. Infrastructure evaluation
 - iii. Renewed push for negotiations leading to binding agreements
- C. First paper on Unpermitted Water Use – concern about the damage ill-informed people and groups can do was expressed. Brad noted the work being done to head off these challenges by meeting with Eric, ReSources board, and cooperating with Sustainable Connections on farm tours.

V. Drainage/Habitat

- A. Ditch maintenance
 - Pangborn Ditch Project – DID #31 and the SWID are working with Stremmlers and NSEA to replace a culvert at TJ Veenacre.
- B. 5-year programmatic permit – SEPA checklist completed – Henry used the template Frank provided for the South Lynden WID to prepare a draft permit for the Sumas WID. It takes more time to process to be able to get permits for Pangborn Ditch cleaning in 2017 but we will try to have it ready for 2018 work.
- C. Spray Program – DID #31 has completed spraying work in the SWID.
- D. DID #15 – Mike Horat reported that cleanout of the Saar Creek settling basin would begin next week.

VI. Education/Communications

- A. Commissioner Tour follow-up – There was no knowledge of what has been happening with the Clearbrook Creek work that had damaged the stream.
- B. Website - www.sumaswid.com
- C. Water Symposiums – Sept 20-21, Nov. 1. – Henry encouraged WID members to attend these educational opportunities. The September 20th program is of particular interest as both Rich Appel and Brad Rader will be presenting for agriculture. The November 1st program will focus exclusively on water supply issues.
- D. WCD Speaker Series – The WCD provided a list of topics. The AWB is helping to sponsor these talks.
- E. WFF Farmer Rally – Brad provided information on a November 2nd Farmer Rally

VII. Ag Water Board

- A. Winter newsletter – we will go to a summer/winter newsletter as WFF is planning a spring/fall newsletter
- B. Water Rights letter and future workshop – the potential of increased water right enforcement pointed towards the need to better educate farmers on their legal options. A letter was emailed to all farmers in July. A workshop in late winter remains a possibility but with few enforcement actions this summer it may not be an urgent need.
- C. CAO and impervious surface update – Farm Bureau has led this effort. Consensus is that both issues are being resolved in an acceptable manner.
- D. County water program funding update – Henry noted that the County was leaning towards establishing a storm water utility district in the Lake Whatcom area which would take some financial pressure off the Flood Fund.
- E. Portage Bay Partnership update – Henry expressed hope that the difficulties in making progress were only hurdles in the long process of building relationships that provide both parties and opportunity to communicate.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

October 10

November 14

Noon – 1 - Meeting with Farmers prior to Fall manure applications

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____