

# Sumas Watershed Improvement District

## Minutes for: June 9, 2020 Meeting, 1 pm

Videoconference – Zoom Meeting ID: 873 6727 6244 Password: 095066

<u>  </u> t	Terry Lenssen	<u>  </u> t	Andy Enfield	<u>  </u> x	Keith Boon
<u>  </u> t	Alan Sytsma	<u>  </u>	Brad Rader	<u>  </u>	
<u>  </u> x	David Haggith	<u>  </u> x	Henry Bierlink	<u>  </u>	Fred Likkel
<u>  </u> t	Alan Chapman	<u>  </u>	Joel Ingram	<u>  </u>	Frank Corey
	<i>x = present</i>		<i>o = absent with notice</i>		<i>t = teleconference</i>

### I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of April 14 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

AWB	May - August AWB	<b>\$25,627.88</b>
	TOTAL - Month	<b>\$25,627.88</b>

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

### II. Administrative

- a. Adopt Purchasing Policy – Henry explained that the Bertrand WID was coordinating the payment of invoices for the Duffner tidegate project which had several funding partners including state grant funding. A clear purchasing policy for the WID is needed to make this work properly and stay in line with state purchasing requirements. Each WID is presented with the opportunity to adopt a similar policy so it can be ready to take on similar projects. Andy moved approval of the SWID Purchasing Policy, Keith seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Appoint Auditing officer – A requirement of the Purchasing Policy is the appointment of a designated Auditing Officer for the WID. The Auditing Officer needs to have a \$50k bond. Keith moved appointment of Henry Bierlink as the SWID Auditing Officer, Andy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Adjudication debate – Henry reported:
  - AWB position shared by Bellingham, PUD, private wells.
  - The County is currently choosing to remain neutral in the debate hoping to be in the position to facilitate future negotiations either under an adjudication or remaining in negotiations under the Water Management Board. AWB is pressing the County and the Planning Unit to take a position in opposition to adjudication.
  - Adjudication supported only by Tribes and environmental caucus of the Planning Unit.
  - Ecology position likely by July. Report to the Legislature is due in September.
  - COVID impacts on the State budget make funding for a new adjudication in 2021 very unlikely. However, Ecology could file the legal work for an adjudication on its own. Legislative approval is only for funding. We do not want the Nooksack to be recommended.
- b. Regional Water Supply task force selected Aspect Consulting as contractor. This is the beginning of the Drainage Based Management negotiations that we are advancing instead of an adjudication. The consultant team selected to guide this process is new to AWB but has worked for both Tribes in the past.

### IV. Drainage/Habitat/Flood

- a. Pangborn Creek project – no report
- b. Ditch maintenance

- Neuman Rd. ditch – Keith updated the Board on the work done by the City of Sumas on the ditch. They removed a blocked culvert and cleaned the stream resulting in a 32” drop in water levels.
- c. Flood Committee update – Henry noted that Fred has reported the board has been focused on the Duffner tidegate project and is expecting to add another tidegate project on Cougar Creek in 2021.

## **V. Water Quality**

- a. Monitoring Results – limited monitoring has been occurring. WQ website has not been updated. David plans to sample only in key areas through the summer.
- b. DNA project – Avian project initiated – all WIDs contributed to make the \$20k available. Fred expects Kent to have something to report this fall. Karen Steensma is part of a grant project studying bird behavior that may be able to augment this DNA project with some help and funding.
- c. Portage Bay/Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District update – shellfish harvesting is open with the exception of October – November.

## **VI. Education/Communications**

- a. Website – [www.sumaswid.com](http://www.sumaswid.com)
- b. Ag Engineer support position – no action on pursuing this as it is unclear if the WCD is still attempting to advance the assessment idea. Chris Clark is still helping with the existing EQIP contracts. Unsure if he will be available to help with future ones.
- c. COVID-19 concerns – a brief discussion of how the various sectors of agriculture were addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 virus.

## **VII. Adjournment/Next Meetings**

September 8

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_