

Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (WID)
Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2017
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Opening: Siri Erickson-Brown called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

Commissioners present: Siri Erickson-Brown, David Andrews, Patrick McGlothlin, Jason Roetcisoender (partial, arrived approximate 6:15 p.m.).

Commissioners absent: Gary Remlinger

1. **Approval of agenda:** Motion made to modify the agenda to move the Pearson Eddy topic to after public comment made, seconded, and **approved 3:0.**
2. **Approval of November 2017 meeting minutes:** Motion made to approve the October 2017 minutes, seconded, and **approved 3:0.**
3. **Consent agenda:** Motion made to approve the consent agenda, seconded and **approved 3:0.**
4. **Public comment:** Steve Van Ess.
5. **Irrigation committee update**
 - a. **Water bank 2018 Summary:** staff briefed board on results of the marketing window, which closed on December 1. Seven applications, all except one was for the maximum of five years. One new water bank participant. Next steps are for staff to implement the program, reaching out to sellers, drafting leases and applications.
 - b. **Comprehensive bank design document:** this document was presented for approval. Motion made to accept the document with the edits as distributed. **Seconded and approved 4:0.**
 - c. **Hydrogeology analysis presentation:** Katherine Beeler, L.G., L.Hg, of Associated Earth Sciences, presented their analysis, including maps, to determine where the Tokul Creek and Tall Chief water rights would be eligible for transfer within the WID boundaries. This analysis was conducted with funding from Department of Ecology water bank project, in close collaboration with Ecology staff and Tulalip and Snoqualmie Tribes' input. Ms. Beeler noted that the areas near certain closed or regulated streams would need further analysis in order for Ecology to approve transfer those water rights to a groundwater use. These areas have no restrictions for place of use, only point of withdrawal. No board action was requested. The next step is for the consultant to complete the draft memo, and to circulate to board before submission to Ecology.
6. **Drainage committee update**
 - a. **Drainage network analysis update:** Cynthia Krass provided a general update on work in progress for Basins 56, 9, 1 and 4. Also working on two projects started prior to the network analysis, including CDK Ditch and tiles on Full Circle Farm. Erin has identified several ADAP projects that should be managed by ADAP and KCD, and the WID should focus on non-ADAP projects. Board gave direction to continue with pilot projects such as CDK ditch, and staff advised that there would be costs incurred for survey for CDK ditch. Several key issues were raised by board on discussion of proposed work in basins, including: what is our plan for measuring success or completion in a drainage basin? It was agreed that this is an important question, and must be explored. Concerns with ADAP centered around the maintenance challenge of dealing with required plantings. Staff asked for guidance about completing work in a basin before moving, versus a "wait and see" strategy for working through basins. Clear direction from board

is to continue with all projects in one basin before moving on. Patrick raised the issue of unintended consequences, making sure that we budget time/money/resources to addressing them after moving on from a basin. This led to a discussion about ensuring maintenance plans are considered PRIOR to projects. It was also agreed that landowner should be leading the decision on which projects to pursue, within reason. Another issue that is of concern is the method by which the engineers determine historic bottom. Both the regulation of this limitation and the method for determining where it is needs to be examined and better understood.

After some detailed review of potential projects in Basins 56 and 9, it became clear that this work needs to be referred to Drainage Committee, and those meetings should be reinstated. Staff to work with Jason to determine reconvening that committee.

- b. Pearson Eddy update:** Richard Martin, King County Ag/Forestry/Incentives program, presented an update on the Pearson Eddy project. His presentation was a direct response to the Nov 8 community meeting in which the WID board meeting was designated as the best way to follow up with the community. Richard reported that there was a meeting with NRCS on November 29 (WID staff also in attendance). At that meeting, it was clear that the parties responsible for restoration are becoming more aware of the negative impacts to flood safety to their projects. Tree removal is expected, and it will be a balance to remove trees and get permits needed to act by summer 2018. Thinning will be pursued and limits to thinning explored. King County investigating how many structures are at risk from 2" – 5" rise. Shrubs and trees have little difference on their impact on flood elevations in the model. Patrick remarked that it seems like the County is not as passionate as what was reflected in the Nov 8 meeting. It was agreed that no impact is the goal. Next steps are for all attendees at NRCS' meeting to draft their proposed solutions on paper, and submit to NRCS by December 22. Erin will draft WID's submission based on her knowledge of the models, incorporating landowner concerns. Staff passed out maps showing imagery, and instructed anyone interested in weighing in to submit to Erin by December 20. Jason asked to be consulted prior to submission.

7. Strategic planning: No update.

8. Administrative update:

- a. Elections:** Cynthia Krass provided an update on the election results to date, but noted that mail-in ballots could still come in for up to five days. RCW Ch. 87.03.105 requires that the board assemble to canvass the returns and declare the result on the Monday following the election. It was agreed to have a special meeting on Monday, December 18 at 9:15 a.m., and Siri, Jason, and David confirmed their availability.
- b. Introduction of new hire, Andy Obst:** introducing Andy, who will work for the WID doing both desktop and field work to support drainage and irrigation best management practices. We are lucky to have such a talented and experienced staff member, and the hope is that her skill set will increase our ability to do drainage efficiently and effectively, especially in the waterways with fish concerns.
- c. 2018 Budget:** budget presented and approved. Note regarding beaver trapper – we will see an annual report in February.

9. Staff Report: No further discussion.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: Special meeting to canvass returns and declare results, Monday, December 18, 9:15 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Next (Regular) Board of Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Carnation City Hall.

Minutes submitted by: Cynthia Krass