

Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (WID)
DRAINAGE WORKSESSION
November 15, 2016

Commissioners present: Siri Erickson-Brown, Jason Roetcisoender, Patrick McGlothlin

Commissioner not present: Gary Remlinger, David Andrews

Staff present: Cynthia Krass

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Agenda was approved 3:0.

Meeting minutes from November 2 worksession were approved 3:0.

Discussion: the overall goal of the WID with regard to drainage is to remove drainage as a barrier to agricultural production. Sub-goals include: permanently reduce the cost of drainage maintenance, increase certainty for landowners around drainage, especially around regulatory issues. There is a strong desire to understand the regulatory environment, all the agencies that have jurisdiction, and to understand what can be improved, either through administrative actions or regulatory change. The WID desires to build trust and confidence among the members that progress is being made. The WID is well-suited to securing and consolidating resources to maximize cost-effectiveness.

Potential strategies listed and/or discussed were: developing a networked approach to drainage construction activities to ensure cost effectiveness, network analysis (currently funded through the Flood Control District), consideration of a pursuing a pilot project to better understand DFW requirements, a bridges task force to reduce cost of new bridges needed when culvert replacement is necessary. Hiring and/or training a licensed beaver trapper to address beaver issues was discussed.

Staff asked for direction on the request for proposal for the Flood Control District funded network analysis grant. Commissioners comments included more emphasis on identifying hydrologically-connected sub-basins, and greater emphasis on costs, including breaking costs down between construction and additional costs driven by regulatory burdens.

Staff asked for direction on the previously discussed Fall outreach effort. Originally, outreach was to seek community response on the drainage network mapping tool. However, it was decided that it might be best to wait until the consultant has completed more analysis and the construction is more imminent. The outreach campaign will continue, but focus on notifying landowners seeking water rights, and to discuss the drainage project more generally.

Minutes submitted by: Cynthia Krass