

**Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Committee
(CFAC)**

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Members in attendance:

Carolyn Kelly, Chair

Keith Wiggers

Alan Merritt

Dave Hedlin

Mike Hulbert

Scott DeGraw

Andrea Xaver

Staff in Attendance:

Kendra Smith, Skagit County

Linda Christensen, Skagit County

Open

Meeting opened at 7:00 AM

The meeting minutes for October 11, 2011 were reviewed. Keith moved and Andrea seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed with no further discussion.

Member Update

None

Financial Update

Kendra gave an overview of the cash flow spreadsheet and provided several payout scenarios. Scott noted that the 'program' for the spreadsheet still needed to be modified in order to have some of the information the CFAC is desiring. He said he would work on it again before the next meeting. Once the ranking is completed this should be a good tool.

Old Business

Charging Staff Time for Easement Amendments

The Committee briefly discussed charging staff time for easements where an applicant wanted to make changes. Carolyn asked Keith to develop a preliminary policy and bring it back to the Committee. The CFAC noted that changes to the easements should be on a rare occasion and only under extreme circumstances. The thought was that if the landowner had to pay for an amendment, then they may not be so inclined to ask for one. Kendra reported that there really have been very few requests for amendments and that may be due to the landowner understanding of the binding conservation easement itself. It was written with the intent of not being changed.

Committee Member Terms and Elections

Andrea expressed a concern that terms and elections need to be consistent. Andrea said she will chair the election committee. It was suggested and decided that elections will occur in January of each year.

New Business

Ranking of New Properties


Due to this round of applicants being the first to undergo the new scoring for ranking the priority of funding after the completion of the Strategic Plan, the Committee spent time ranking four out of twelve properties. Because of time constraints today, the Committee asked Kendra to complete the rankings and present them at the meeting in December. Dennis Canty, consultant from American Farmland Trust, had offered to review the scoring to insure that it worked appropriately and to make modifications as necessary. Kendra may call him after she works through the rest of the applications. Kendra is providing an excel sheet indicating the old scores next to the new scores as a point of reference.

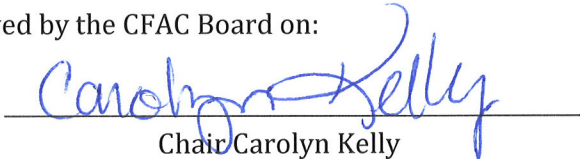
December Meeting

Scott has requested the following two items for discussion at the December meeting:

- 1) Property vesting process
- 2) Grouping impervious surfaces

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM

Submitted by: 
Linda Christensen

Approved by the CFAC Board on:

Chair Carolyn Kelly