

## SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD (AAB)

### Minutes from the 6/18/03 Meeting

#### Member(s) in attendance:

Randy Good  
Bob Finkbohner  
Oscar Lagerlund  
Murray Benjamin  
Dave Boon  
Lyle Wesen  
Bob Hughes  
Rose Merritt  
Beth Vander Veen  
Roger Knutzen  
Mike Hulbert

#### Member(s) not in attendance:

Larry Jensen

#### Others in attendance

Gary Christensen  
Tom Karsh  
Bob Rose  
Steve Sakuma

#### 1. Call to order and introductions:

Dave Boon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6 pm and welcomed everyone to the monthly Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

#### 2. Minutes Approved:

It was moved by Randy Good, seconded by Bob Hughes to approve the April 16, 2003 meeting minutes as corrected (Dyvon Havens and Anne Lohman were in attendance, and since Gary Christensen has not been cloned he should not be listed twice!). Motion approved 11/0.

#### 3. Action Item(s):

- a. Dyvon Havens was unanimously elected recording secretary (since she was not in attendance). Actually that is not correct; the Committee decided (w/o vote) that the staff support person would also be the recording secretary.
- b. Gary Christensen (Assistant County Planning Director) led a discussion on the role and responsibilities of the AAB according to the founding resolutions. A general discussion followed. It was agreed (w/o vote) that each AAB member (including Dyvon Havens) would come to next month's meeting prepared to present at least five (5) issues they consider critical for the survival of commercial agriculture in Skagit County. From this list the AAB will determine a strategic plan, position (white) papers, and future recommendation to the County for Comprehensive Plan Policies and Regulations.

- c. Support staff was asked (w/o vote) to survey the other west side counties (and Chelan County on the east side) for information about their AABs and to compile a list of issues and/or strategic plans from these other counties for the AAB's future consideration.
  - d. Gary Christensen was asked (w/o vote) to provide copies of the Agricultural policies and regulations currently in the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan/Code for the AAB members.
  - e. Randy Good and Rose Merritt were selected (w/o vote) to represent the AAB in assisting the Conservation Futures Advisory Board screen applications and make recommendation to the County for the next Director of Farmland Legacy Program.
  - f. Continued discussion on "Agriculture-Speak with One Voice" proposal from Steve Sakuma. It was moved by Roger Knutzen that the AAB should accept and endorse the recommendations as presented by Steve. Chairman Boon tabled the motion to allow himself time to contact the Board of County Commissioners for their perspective and direction on the agricultural leadership role of the AAB, and then to report back to the AAB before again taking up the motion.
  - g. Gary Christensen explained the legal process necessary to change urban growth areas (UGAs) and for cities to then annex agricultural land. Discussion followed. Lyle Wesen moved/seconded by Roger Knutzen that the AAB should go on record as opposing the conversion of any agricultural land. Further discussion followed. The issue was determined to be more complex than first considered and that the motion may be premature. The motion was withdrawn with Gary being asked to return next month to report on the status of the petitions to the City of Burlington to amend its UGA.
  - h. Gary Christensen was asked if there were any agricultural projects listed in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. A brief discussion followed with Gary offering to bring copy of the plan to the next AAB meeting.
4. Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Boon.

Respectfully submitted: Tom Karsh, Interim Recording Secretary