

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB)
Minutes – September 21st, 2005

Members in attendance:

Oscar Lagerlund (Chair)
Dave Boon (Vice-Chair)
Randy Good
Bill McMoran
Murray Benjamin
Lyle Wesen
Mike Hulbert
Kim Mower
Bob Hughes
Annie Lohman

Members not in attendance:

Roger Knutzen
Rose Merritt

Others in attendance

Dave Brookings
Leslie Wisdom
Jan Flagan
Bob Rose
Carly Ruacho
Allison Deets

1. Call to order & introductions:

Chair Oscar Lagerlund called the meeting to order at 7.05 pm. He welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Jan Flagan from Skagit County Public Works was in attendance, as well as Leslie Wisdom from the Festival of Family Farms, and Bob Rose from Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland.

2. Minutes:

Chair Oscar Lagerlund, requested corrections or additions to the August minutes. Randy Good moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Dave Boon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Festival of Family Farms – Leslie Wisdom

Leslie Wisdom, Executive Director of the Festival of Family Farms, provided an update and information on the festival. The Festival became more actively managed as the oversight board for the event brought on staff and worked to raise funds to expand outreach efforts. Leslie Wisdom handed out the flier, the newspaper insert, and other information about the event, which is October 1st and 2nd. She also directed the Board to the new Festival website, at www.festivaloffamilyfarms.com for more information.

4. Bayview Stormwater Management Draft Plan Update – Jan Flagan

Jan Flagan, from Skagit County Public Works, provided an update on the Bayview Stormwater Management Plan. The Plan is 95% complete, and Public Works is seeking input from various stakeholders regarding the draft. Concerns expressed included a concern regarding the cost breakdown, the lack of ongoing maintenance costs, and lack of communication with all the affected drainage districts together. After some discussion, it was agreed that Jan Flagan and Ric Boge would meet with the Ag Advisory Board's Drainage and Land Use Committees, along with the Commissioners of Drainage Districts 12, 14, and 19 to discuss the Plan. The meeting will take place September 27, at Bob's Burgers & Brew in Burlington.

5. Land Use Committee Update – Mike Hulbert

Chair Oscar Lagerlund opened the discussion with a bit of wisdom from Billy Frank, a tribal member who said of collaborative processes that “if you want success, include us; if you want to fail, don’t include us.” Committee Chair Mike Hulbert reported that the Committee is meeting on Wednesdays at 9am and is currently discussing Special Use Permitting processes for temporary farmworker housing, bed and breakfast, home based business 2, and potential new special use permit requirements. Carly Ruacho is going to join the Committee’s next meeting and will be helping draft language recommendations for code amendments, and in particular requiring annual self-certification for special use permits. Lyle Wesen moved, and Dave Boon seconded, that the Land Use Committee proceed with proposals for new code language related to some special use permit requirements.

Chair Oscar Lagerlund called for a motion to adjourn. Dave Boon moved, and Murray Benjamin seconded, that the September meeting of the Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board be adjourned. Carried.

Adjourn regular session 9.15 pm.