

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB)
Minutes – February 21st, 2007

Members in attendance:

Oscar Lagerlund (Chair)
Murray Benjamin (also proxy for Bill
McMoran)
Randy Good
Annie Lohman
Mike Hulbert (also proxy for Bob Hughes)
Kim Mower
John Vendeland
Lyle Wesen
Kraig Knutzen (for Roger Knutzen)

Members not in attendance:

Dave Boon

Others in attendance

Mike Shelby
Ken Dahlstedt
Carly Ruacho
Allison Aurand

1. Call to order & introductions:

Chair Oscar Lagerlund called the meeting to order at 6.00pm. He welcomed members and guest Mike Shelby (Western Washington Ag Association) to the meeting.

2. Minutes:

Chair Oscar Lagerlund called for review and correction of the January minutes. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were accepted as submitted.

3. Appointments and Elections:

Chair Oscar Lagerlund requested consideration of the candidate for the seat which will be made vacant by his resignation. Lyle Wesen moved, and Annie Lohman seconded, appointment of Nels Lagerlund as a member of the Agricultural Advisory Board. Motion carried, with Oscar Lagerlund abstaining. The appointment recommendation will be forwarded to the County Commissioners for final approval via resolution.

Chair Oscar Lagerlund opened the floor to nominations for the Agricultural Advisory Board Chair position. Mike Hulbert moved, and Annie Lohman seconded, the nomination of Kim Mower for Chair. Lyle Wesen moved, and Mike Hulbert seconded, to close the nominations. Nominations closed by voice vote. Lyle Wesen called the question on the nomination of Kim Mower as Chair. Kim Mower approved by unanimous voice vote as Chair of the AAB. Oscar Lagerlund passed the gavel to Kim Mower.

Chair Kim Mower opened the floor to nominations for the Agricultural Advisory Board Vice Chair position. Lyle Wesen moved, and Randy Good seconded, the nomination of Mike Hulbert for Vice Chair. After further discussion, Randy Good moved, and Annie Lohman seconded, to close the nominations. Nominations closed by voice vote. Randy Good called the question on the nomination of Mike Hulbert as Vice Chair. Mike Hulbert approved by unanimous voice vote as Vice Chair of the AAB.

4. Legislative Update – Mike Shelby

Mike Shelby, Executive Director of the Western Washington Agricultural Association, gave an update on bills being considered in the Legislature this year. Of particular interest to agriculture are bills related to the Ag-CAO and the proposed Office of

Farmland Preservation. A handout was provided on a variety of bills; the AAB has indicated positions on the following:

Support:

- ✓ SB 5076/HB 1648 (Increasing protections for ag operations, activities, practices)
- ✓ SB 5248/HB 1167 (Preserving the viability of agricultural lands)
- ✓ SB 5108/HB 1627 (Creating the Office of Farmland Preservation)
- ✓ SB 5145 (Clarifying existing requirements for conservation of agricultural lands [wetland mitigation banking])
- ✓ SB 5301 (Requiring voluntary measures by included in critical area development regulations)
- ✓ SB 5362 (Preserving farm and agricultural land through conservation futures levies)
- ✓

Oppose:

- ✓ HB1636 (TDRs)
- ✓ SB 5656 (Creating a regional TDR program)
- ✓ HB 2213 (Addressing the application of the growth management act to certain agricultural activities occurring on agricultural lands)

Neutral/Wait & See:

- ✓ SB 5143 (Authorizing additional land used for housing to qualify under the open space program)
- ✓ SB 5372/HB 1374 (Creating the Puget Sound Partnership)
- ✓ HB 2212 (Addressing the application of the growth management act to certain agricultural activities occurring on agricultural lands)

5. Miscellaneous

Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt provided an update on commissioner activities.

Carly Ruacho reported that the Planning & Development Services department requests clarification from the Ag Advisory Board on the ag accessory use section of the code.

Mike Hulbert reported on the first meeting of the Young Farmer Group, coordinated by Don McMoran (WSU) and Allison Aurand (Farmland Legacy Program) and led by Mike.

Chair Kim Mower recognized and thanked Oscar Lagerlund for his years of commitment and dedication to the Agricultural Advisory Board. The Board applauded his efforts; Oscar Lagerlund said he will continue to be active in agricultural issues in the County and will continue to work with the AAB.

Chair Kim Mower called for adjournment of the meeting.

Adjourn regular session 8.15pm.