

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB)
Minutes –August 15th, 2007

Members in attendance:

Mike Hulbert (Vice Chair) (proxy for Kim)
Nels Lagerlund
Murray Benjamin (proxy for Bill M)
Randy Good
Bob Hughes
Lyle Wesen (proxy for Annie)

Members not in attendance:

Kim Mower
Roger Knutzen
Bill McMoran
Annie Lohman
John Vendeland
Dave Boon

Others in attendance

Carly Ruacho
Jeraldine Hallberg
Tom Beckwith, consultant

1. Call to order. 7:05 p.m. Mike Hulbert called meeting to order and welcomed the committee. See proxy above.
2. Open Space/Greenbelt Presentation. - Jeraldine from PDS was present with Tom Beckwith, an open space consultant, to discuss PDS's requirement to adopt open space/greenbelt ordinance by the end of this year as a compliance agenda item. They are doing this for SCOG and 30+ organizations with a \$75,000 grant from CTED but to also use the money for Hamilton re-locate. Tom explained what his role has been and shared some diagrams on what may be included in open space. They also ran a limited survey, (450 person, 200 completed +/- 8%), which supported a proposal for a tax levy. Draft is complete. All jurisdictions need to have an open space plan. County has many players in open space designations. The Skagit River is a connector. Trail system already proposed to achieve total connection. Two pieces needed in LaConner and Bayview. Previous plan found non-compliant. Questions: Are trails within the farmlands compatible with farm management practices? Dike and Drainage districts have had limited involvement. Concern with an easement on top of another easement. The plan needs to be a 20 year vision. They will return in December with more information.
3. FAB/ABB Reflections: Break bread type of meeting and found some issues in common. Kim and Annie to meet with FAB Chair. Mike to ask Roger what he thinks of some FAB members coming to the meeting with Mr. Wood from the Skagit Valley Herald.
4. Chuckanut Metropolitan Park District: Lyle gave an update. He talked with the BoCC in open session and asked what position/authority they had in the process. Response...very little. Discrepancy with amount of land vs. voters in Skagit and Whatcom Co. District Commissioners would have taxing authority, eminent domain and easement authority. AAB elected to comment to the BRB stating its opposition. It is not appropriate to include ag lands. MOTION: Murray moved and Lyle seconded to have Kendra to draft a letter and Lyle review, stating strong opposition to creating the CMPD as presently described for the reasons stated above. Unanimous.
5. Update on the BoCC action on Com[p] Plan: Carly gave an update on BoCC action on the previous Tuesday. Habitat special use permit moratorium recommended by the Planning Commission.

6. Clean Water Questions: Why tax properties paying into Dike Drainage? How identifying DNM Plans? Need help!

Vice Chair Mike Hulbert called for adjournment of the meeting.
Adjourned 9:00ish