

# Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Minutes January 14 2009

## **Member in attendance**

Bill McMoran          Randy Good          Annie Lohman          Nells Lagerlund          Kim Mower  
Murray Benjamin      Gregg Lee          Lyle Wesen          Bob Hughes

## **Others in Attendance**

Kraig Knutzen AAB membership pending

Carly Ruacho Skagit Planning and Development Services

Kendra Smith Skagit County staff

## **Guests**

Mary Heinrich

Mike Shelby western Washington Ag Association

## **Call to order and Introductions**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kim Mower at 6:02PM. Roll was taken and attendance noted.

## **Consent Agenda**

Agenda was outlined and approved by board.

## **Minutes**

Minutes from December 2008 meeting were reviewed and amended. Randy motioned for approval as amended, seconded by Bill. Passed

## **Committee Reports**

- a. Land Use - No report
- b. Drainage and Irrigation – Mike Shelby spoke as to the tide gates issue work being completed aside from the NOA Fisheries failing to meet deadlines for their end. Letter was sent in December to help speed things up. Concerning last round of high water where work has been done really shows up. Still more work to do yet. Hansen creek needs help.

- c. Flood – Nells attended last Flood meeting.
- d. Critical Areas – No report on standing issues. Mike Shelby gave an update on the Ruckleshous meetings. After many meetings over a one and a half year period they have developments as outlined in the Report No. 2. He gave details about the four groups making up the meetings, and how they represented their interests. Agriculture, tribes, environmental, and county governments. Discussion around the room directed at Mike talked about the Fact Finding, concerns over more facts from Skagit being implemented. He emphasized the need for individual programs for different watersheds, no “one size fits all” will be appropriate, and no regulatory back door, even though some groups have that on the wish list.

### **Old Business**

Kim spoke on the Operating Procedures document she and Randy had worked on. Discussion around the table on suggestions for changes.

Terms to be reestablished and is being worked on. December 31<sup>st</sup> will be the date for the termination of the term. Members up for termination of term may be reestablished. Terms are to be staggered over 3 year period.

### **New Business**

Randy spoke about the need to have the Skagit GIS report showed at the soonest possible meeting at the Ruckleshous meetings. To assure this happens he motioned for the AAB to send a letter to BoCC advising this need. Lyle seconded, motion passed. Annie and Kendra assigned to the letter.

### **Extra Discussion**

AAB has its own web page.

Elliott – Has a new plan for AAB consideration. AAB initial letter on this issue has not changed. Mike has the draft and is dealing with it.

Mary spoke of the Clear Valley Mitigation Bank, comments to DOE due Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Board decided to have a letter no more than two pages sent on this issue. (Annie & Kim)

Randy spoke of the corridor open space issue. Work session March 3, public hearing March 17.

Kim spoke of the FCZD Flood meetings. AAB needs more info on when the meetings occur. Tom Karsh can e-mail meeting notices to anyone wanting to be on the list. Kendra and Kim noted they are getting on the list. More ag representatives need to be at all meetings.

Discussion on the biological Opinion and FEMA's requirements. County has no action at this time. Further discussion and work will continue.

Discussion on the need for more ag representation on the Alternative Futures board. A letter will be drafted to be presented to BoCC.

Kim agreed to try to get to Ag Leaders breakfast meetings to help get awareness to other ag groups of our focus on issues.

Carly spoke on the need to re-address the letter she received about the Accessory to AG Building Permits. Needs changing to Commissioners

Kim talked about goals, many of which were worked on during the meeting.

Discussion between Kim and Kendra about the upcoming joint meeting of Snohomish and Skagit Ag Advisory Boards on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Kim read from a list of goals for the Board to work on.

Drainage Utilities Areas, tabled to next meeting.

Macken Decision discussion, tabled to next meeting.

### **Next meeting**

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Soil Conservation Building, 6:PM

### **Adjourn**

Board voted to adjourn the meeting 8:15PM

### Action items:

- 1). Letter to Commissioners to have GIS report presented at Ruckleshous meetings. (Annie &Kendra)
- 2). Letterhead design. (Annie)
- 3.) Letter to DOE on Mitigation Bank (Annie & Kim)
4. Operating Procedure adjustments (Randy and Kim)

5). Change Accessory to Ag letter (Annie)

Minutes taken by Murray

Notes provided by Annie and Randy

Minutes written by Kim