

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Minutes for February 11, 2009

Members in Attendance

Bill McMoran Randy Good Mike Hulbert John Vendeland

Annie Lohman Nels Lagerlund Bob Hughes Greg Lee

Lyle Wesen

Absent: Kim Mower Kraig Knutzen

Guests: Carly Ruacho Skagit Planning and Development Services

Carolyn Kelly

Ryan Walters

Toby Rogers

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Mike Hulbert at 6: PM. Roll was taken and attendance noted. Introductions were given all around.

Minutes

Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and amended. Lyle motioned for approval, Nels seconded, passed.

Guest Speaker

Toby Rogers spoke on soil scientists who can refer to themselves as soil scientists versus wetland scientists. A bill is working through Olympia to distinguish the two categories. Problems have occurred with septic systems with poor judgments being made. There are about 60 soil scientists in Washington State and 200 to 300 wetland scientists.

Committee Reports

- a. Land Use – Mike worked on houses in ag zone

- b. Drainage and Irrigation - Bill spoke about the last flood control meeting he attended. Annie spoke about flooding, damage to soils.
- c. Flood Policy – Kendra handed out information on Technical Committees.
- d. Critical Areas – Randy gave a White Paper report.

Old Business

- a. Operating Procedures – Murray motioned to have the change under “Officer Duties” addition to the secretaries’ duties to include “should secretary not be present duties go to Vice Chair or designee”. Seconded by Annie, motion passed. Randy motioned to adopt Operating Procedures as amended. Bill seconded, motion passed.
- b. Recent Letters – Discussion of letter sent by Kim to BoCC concerning GIs Mapping to Ruckleshous. Annie reported on Skagit Watershed Futures Project.
- c. Open Space Plan to be on March Agenda
- d. Drainage Utility Area – Annie spoke on the history of the area. Annie wants the group to study and check on what has been going on with area projects. Carolyn spoke of some of the mowing is covered under Roads Public Works.
- e. Macken – Randy gave an update on the Reconsideration by Gary James for the Mackens. Gave details on the situation. Ryan Walters spoke on Skagit County’s perspective of the situation. Watering of livestock must be controlled in the view of the County – no unlimited access.
- f. Joint meetings of Snohomish and Skagit AABs – Bill attended and spoke on how he thought the meeting went well. Could be beneficial to both groups. Carly, Annie, Kim, Kendra, and Mike also attended. Mike said Snohomish county Ag advisory has lots of work to do.

New Business

- a. Lyle reported on Edison Fire hall meeting on the water situation during the flood. Majority of the public has no idea.
- b. Jeff Miller is the interim director of Public Works. Kendra will invite him to the March meeting. AAB will have the opportunity to voice concerns about the floods and other subjects.

Extra Discussion

- a. Annie will keep updated on the bills currently in legislation.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting for the AAB is March 11th, 2009, 6: PM

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

Action items:

- a. Prepare Operating Procedures according to meeting discussion for final white Paper

Minutes taken by Murray

Minutes prepared by Kim