

# Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Minutes March 13, 2009

## **Members in Attendance**

|                |              |              |               |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Randy Good     | Mike Hulbert | Annie Lohman | Kim Mower     |
| Nels Lagerlund | Bob Hughes   | Lyle Wesen   | Kraig Knutzen |

Bob Hughes

## **Members Absent**

|          |              |                |
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| Greg Lee | Bill McMoran | John Vendeland |
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## **Others in Attendance**

|               |              |             |              |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Mary Heinrich | Carly Ruacho | Don McMoran | Kendra Smith |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|

Carolyn Kelly

## **Call to Order and Consult Agenda**

Meeting was called to order at 6: PM by Chair Kim Mower. The agenda was consulted and amended.

## **Minutes**

As the February Minutes were problematic as an e-mail attachment for many members to open and access Mike motioned to table the approval. Randy seconded, motion passed. Kim said she would look into the problem and ask Zoe to resend out to members.

## **Committee Reports**

- a. Land Use – No report
- b. Drainage and Irrigation – Nels met with Janice, no action at this time. Edison Slough work maybe. Nels spoke about using money for drainage that is diverted to mitigation and dike work. Annie motioned to send a letter to BoCC concerning the need to form a committee (in accordance with County Policy) to address drainage and utility. Nels seconded, motioned passed. The responsibility of the writing of the letter passed to drainage and Irrigation Committee for creating and delivering the letter. Kraig wants the committee to work with Dist. 14 concerning monies that are not being paid. Kraig was appointed to the Drainage and Irrigation Committee by

- Chair Kim. Kraig went on to speak of the dilemma of the 250 foot “no spray of any kind of chemical” zones along roads and water areas.
- c. Flood Policy – talk about the Burlington works to flow flood water through agriculture land, thus making farmers and drainage districts liable for water removal.
  - d. Critical Area – No report. Some discussion of the CAO the FAB adopted. Needs for Forestry zone not the same for Ag zone
  - e. Open Space – Annie removed herself from this discussion, returned when done. Mary spoke of UGA and Open Space and trails. A motion was made by Lyle, seconded by Randy, to have the paper drawn up by Open Space committee to be read at the upcoming Public Comment meeting. Motion passed. Mike agreed to read the paper.

### **Old Business**

Some discussion of Drainage Utility districts, most comments were during the earlier part of the meeting.

Some detail about the letters AAB submitted in January. We had a response to our request for more Ag representation on the Alternative Futures Steering committee. The response was no more representation was needed. No information about the effects of the GIS report to be submitted to the Ruckelshaus meeting.

More detail about the Elliott issue. Kendra stated he calls repeatedly wanting more input from the AAB about his desire to change his zoning. AAB is firm on their decision to maintain the intact zone. Kendra and Mike will try to resolve the issue.

### **Extra Discussion**

Randy questioned about the storm water permits. Carly explained about how to obtain permits from DOE. Carolyn’s office is doing outreach education for storm drainage.

Farm worker housing situation was brought up by Randy. County and State share duties.

Don alerted the group about the Young Farmer meeting 3-11-09 at Bob’s Burger and Brew. Workshops for fruit tree spraying at WSU Research the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March. Tractor Safety Training in May, adults welcome. He talked of the budget cuts, his position was secure, but many of the programs WSU works with may be cut. Not known at that time what was going on the chopping block.

Annie will be leaving the AAB for a position with the Planning Commission. Her position on the Flood Committee will be filled by Bill.

Carly spoke of the situation of the Burlington school and the property that was acquired for building.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the AAB will be April 8<sup>th</sup>, '09 at the Valley Business Center (2021 E. College Way), 7: PM

### **Adjourn**

Kim called for a motion to adjourn, Bob so motioned, Kraig seconded, motion passed, meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

Minutes taken by Murray

Prepared by Kim

### **Action Items:**

- a. Mike and Kendra to address Elliott on his zoning issue
- b. Drainage and Irrigation Committee to write a letter to BoCC to address need for Drainage Utility Committee. Nels to write letter with Annie's help.
- c. A letter written by Open Space Committee ( Mary And Randy)to be read by Mike at the Open Space and Public Hearing meeting on March 17th