

Agriculture Advisory Board

Minutes for June 10, '09

Members in Attendance

Randy Good Kim Mower Lyle Wesen Nels Lagerlund

Mike Hulbert (Proxy for Bob Hughes) Murray Benjamin (Proxy for Greg Lee)

Kraig Knutzen Bill McMoran

Others

Kendra Smith – Natural Resource Lands Policy Coordinator

Carly Ruacho – Skagit County Planning and Development Services

Don McMoran – WSU Extension

Call to Order and Consent Agenda

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kim Mower at 7:03 PM. The agenda was consented and there were no changes.

Minutes

The May Minutes were moved to approve by Murray, seconded by Mike, motion passed.

Committee Reports

- a. Land Use – Motion by Lyle to present to BoCC a letter concerning the enforcement of the code for development and single family residences on ag land. Seconded by Mike. Mike volunteered to make a public presentation at the next Public Comment period. Kendra stressed the need to continue to present our concerns to the commissioners. Murray suggested the proper procedure for Mike as to how to present himself on behalf of the AAB.

- b. Drainage and Irrigation – Nels gave an update on the Bayview Watershed Stormwater Management Plan. Used Drainage Utility money to implement the plan. Discussion of the plan and the implementation for the housing in the UGA. Kraig offered up Roger for a presentation to the AAB about this plan. More discussion of the different versions of the plan and how long it has been in development. Nels offered to talk with Dan Berenson about the Drainage Utility situation concerning projects and developing the Commission. Don suggested a meeting with the City of Anacortes concerning the water sales to Agriculture, or, ask to have an Anacortes representative come to an AAB meeting.
- c. Flood Policy – Nels said there had been no Flood meeting so had nothing to report.
- d. CAO – No report
- e. Open Spaces – Some discussion about how the Plan will proceed because of the County's cutbacks. Randy showed a document demonstrating how the planners have not addressed the ag voice well. Carly said the County is still out of compliance with the UGA Open Space requirement and with the investment in the consultant is likely to utilize what they already have. County is still considering options on how to get in compliance with voluntary areas. The Plan was a feasibility study to test how well the community would accept it. June 16th is the day for the meeting to see how it will proceed.

Old Business

Kendra reports little response to the empty board position (OK, none). Richard Sakuma has been approached for the position. Kraig volunteered to call him. John Vendelund has resigned. Kendra will put out an ad for a replacement in Dist. 2.

New Business

Ovenell Variance discussed. Kendra passed out the surveyor's maps. The land is zoned Rural Reserve. No action needed by AAB at this time.

Extra Discussion

Kendra gave a standing invitation to AAB members to enjoy the Women in Timber Tour in Deming, Friday starting at 8:AM. Kendra also discussed changes for staffing and moving. Additionally Kendra passed out a series of e-mails involving Jay Gordon and Carolyn Kelly regarding the Samish pollution problem. Nels talked about how the dairies have been hassled by Ecology. EPA will do DNA testing in the near future. County must provide the samples.

Don gave an update on WSU. They have hired a Pest Control Person, Eric Adams. Apple Maggot will be targeted, as well as other ag pests. He spoke of the hop project. He had 14 kids for the Farm Tractor Safety training. He spoke of budget cuts and loss of programs. He invited the AAB to the WSU Open House at the Research Center on July 9th. Don is now on the board of the Alternative Future Project.

Mike spoke about the Conservation Futures. There are 14 projects and not enough money. They are looking at USDA and Nature Conservancy for funding.

Next Meeting

AAB will meet next on July 8th, 7:00 PM at the Valley Business Center

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM

Minutes taken by Murray

Prepared by Kim

Work items –

- a. Sign the letter for the presentation
- b. Mike to give the presentation at the next Public Comment Period. All are invited to attend if possible.
- c. Invite Roger Knutzen to the next meeting
- d. Contact City of Anacortes and invite a rep to our next meeting
- e. Contact Richard Sakuma and invite to the board