

## Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Minutes, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### **Members in Attendance**

Randy Good      Bill Mc Moran      Nels Lagerlund      Nate Youngquist  
Kim Mower      Mike Hulbert (proxy Greg Lee)      Kraig Knutzen      Bob Hughes

Not in attendance – Greg Lee

### **Others in Attendance**

Carolyn Kelly – Skagit Soil Conservation

Mike Shelby – Western Washington Ag Association

Carly Ruacho – Planning and Development Services

### **Call to Order and Consent Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Kim Mower. Introductions all around for the new member Nate Youngquist.

The agenda was noted to add guest speaker Mike Shelby.

A motion was called by Randy to accept the September Minutes as written. The motion was seconded (not recorded), motion passed.

### **Guest Speaker**

Mike Shelby returned for an update on the 5248 process at the Ruckleshous Center. The report was due August 31<sup>st</sup> and did not make it. After another month of talks it was still stalled. With two major issues to overcome a stalemate makes clear no progress for moving forward with legislative action. A. Push back with regulatory action if benchmarks are not achieved in 5 years is a consensus with the tribes, action the ag groups will not agree to. B. The environmental groups want more funding for projects to make it work, not likely in the current

economic crunch. Mike's opinion is that already existing programs should provide solutions. They are still evaluating all options. They will meet again on 10-15-09.

Mike finished up with progress reports of Hill Ditch, Thomas Creek, and Carpenter Creek cleaning projects. Tribe was willing to pay for fish salvage.

### **Committee Reports**

- a. Land Use - Kim reported of attending the Planning Commission meeting about the Code Amendments Proposals. Mike launched a mapping project targeting the identification of agriculture acres in production in Skagit County. Carly brought County maps to help with his presentation, and answered questions by Board members. Much discussion about how to proceed. Mike will have follow up with his presentation.
- b. Drainage and Irrigation – Nels spoke on the situation in Snohomish County where fish projects are not exempt from permits. He also discussed the RCW 77.55.181 Fish Habitat Enhancement, with the original intent was for small projects.
- c. Flood – Discussion of fish projects and waterfowl projects. Planning and Development worked on language for Special Use permits. This did not go through as BoCC wanted more scrutiny. Carly explained how directives from BoCC set the agenda for work. This just hasn't worked its way up the ladder for focus work.
- d. CAO – Note Mike Shelby's report. Also discussion around the table about the Northern State land project.

### **Old Business**

Discussion about a commercial horse arena was brought forth to decide if the Board was supporting Planning to turn down the permit for development. Carly talked about how the planned facility was not in compliance with the code as it was not going to be used for breeding. It is planned as a commercial venture with rented stalls and other activities clients pay for. This is not allowed in the NRL- Ag zoned land.

Vacant position in District 3 was discussed. Potential individuals still need to submit their applications.

Kim reported that she had sent a letter of thanks to Mary Heinrich.

### **New Business**

No discussion

### **Extra Discussion**

Carolyn reported DOE is making visits in Samish watershed district on possible potential polluters. She passed around a new booklet of recourse info on BMP.

Carly reported no appeal on the Ag Zone Accessory Use. It went through. There was some discussion on details.

### **Next Meeting**

Next ABB meeting will be 6:00PM at the new BoCC Hearings Room, November 11<sup>th</sup>, '09.

### **Adjourn**

Murray motioned for adjournment and Bill seconded. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Work items

- a. At next meeting pass around a new "contact" sheet.
- b. Get a notebook for Nate

Minutes taken by Murray, prepared by Kim

