

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Meeting December 9th, 2009

Minutes

Attendance – Members

Mike Hulbert Lyle Wesen Bill McMoran (proxy for Murray Benjamin) Greg Lee

Nate Youngquist Randy Good (Proxy for Kim Mower) Bob Hughes

Non members

Don McMoran - WSA Extension

Gary Stoyka – Skagit County Public Works

Jan Flagan – Skagit County Public Works

Dan Berentson – Skagit County Public Works

Absent

Kendra Smith – Skagit NRL Policy; Kim Mower, member; Murray Benjamin, member

Call to Order and Consent Agenda

Meeting called to order by Mike. Linda Nuenzig was not able to attend. Lyle motioned to accept November Minutes as read, seconded by Randy. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker

Dan Berentson – Public Works. Dan gave a presentation on the Clean Water Fund. He reported on a meeting held the previous week in Allen on the Samish Bay Water Quality problem. He also talked about the Drainage Utility, which has a six year plan. His department is looking at a way to fund regional drainage projects. He spoke of interest in re-establishing the drainage utility commission. He wants more responsibility in partnering with drainage districts. Drainage Utility collects 1.6 million dollars each year. This year will spend approximately 1.2 million dollars, and has about 1.8 million dollars in reserve.

Jan Flagan – Public Works. Jan gave a brief report on her projects. She spoke that the Bay View Plan is subject to the 2005 storm water plan, which is more stringent. Bob asked if the Hill Ditch was still in the plan. Jan replied it is not. Dan is going to notify the AAB what day the meeting with the BoCC is in January.

Gary Stoyka - Public Works. Gary spoke on the mitigation plan on the in stream flow. In 2008 the Swinomish Tribe, along with the City of Anacortes, appealed the plan. The County is

working on completing the plan and submitting it to the Dept. of Ecology. There will be a new study out by the end of January

Committee Reports

- I. Land Use - Mike talked about the farmable Ag Acres Project. He plans to have a presentation on this subject at the next AAB meeting. He talked about the possibility of a GPS project.
- II. Drainage and Irrigation – No report.
- III. Flood – No Report.
- IV. CAO – Randy gave a report about DNA testing in water samples in the Samish. Largest problem seems to be birds. Dan suggested that Rick Haley attend an AAB meeting.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Mike reported of a meeting about the Port Project. Mike said we need to create an Economic Development committee to pursue this project. AAB members appointed were Bill, Mike and Greg, with Don McMoran also.

Bill asked Dan about the Clear Valley Mitigation Bank project. Randy made a motion, seconded by Greg, to have the AAB write a letter to the BoCC to encourage them to deny the permit. Mike and Kim will, with newly elected officers, construct the letter.

Mike said Land Use Committee will review the letter from planning and report back next month.

Extra Discussion

Don McMoran reported on changes in the Extension Service. Focus is back on commercial agriculture. He spoke of how funding will be sought. He is now asked to go after grant funding. He will be hiring a migrant person to assist in small farming. He has applied for a grant to help with the new insect affecting small fruit growers. Don has spoken with Rick Larson, hoping to get some help from him. Don also spoke of two upcoming workshops and training in pesticide application and tractor safety.

Elections – Mike motioned to nominate Murray for Secretary and Nels Lagerlund for Chair. Greg seconded. Motion passed, persons duly voted on and elected. Nels motioned to nominate Bill for Vice-Chair, seconded by Lyle. Motion passed, person duly voted on and elected. Linda Christensen will be asked if she will take care of Minutes and packets.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Greg, seconded by Bob, motion passed. Meeting was adjourned, time not noted.

Minutes were taken by Bill, for Murray. Prepared by Kim

Work items

- a. Letter to BoCC about Clear Valley Mitigation Bank
- b. Mike - presentation on Ag Acres for next meeting
- c. Invite Rick Haley to attend next meeting for discussion about DNA in the Samish
- d. Land Use Committee to review a letter from Planning for report at next meeting
- e. Ask Linda Christensen for assistance with AAB chores