



**SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**

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Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Minutes**

Approved

**Members in Attendance**

Nels Lagerlund, Mike Hulbert (proxy for Bob Hughes), Kraig Knutzen, Kim Mower, Randy Good, Murray Benjamin, Jim Carstens, Nate Youngquist, Lyle Wesen, Bill McMoran, Greg Lee. Member(s) not in attendance – Bob Hughes.

**Others in attendance**

Carly Ruacho - Planning and Development Service  
Ryan Walters – Skagit County PA  
Dan Berentson – Skagit County  
Betsy Stevenson – Planning and Development Service  
Gary Sorenson – Public Works  
Jeff McGowan – Public Works  
Kendra Smith – AAB staff and Natural Resources Policy Coordinator

**Call to Order, Consent Agenda, Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nels Lagerlund at 6:00 PM. The Minutes from the January meeting were approved as written. The Minutes from the February meeting were amended as follows; Corrected to reflect all three Commissioners commented on Mac Kaufman's DOE presentation; Murray Benjamin to be included in the Members In Attendance.

**Guest Speaker**

Ryan Walters started with a presentation of a proposed amendment to Skagit County code, section 14.18, Land Division. He explained the need for the amendment for the purpose of environmental conservation or restoration. He

talked about the County working with Skagit Land Trust. He explained the problem of land acquisitions for riparian and wetland projects. The proposal is for an exemption from the subdivision code that will allow for a parcel to be divided into two lots; one for development and one for conservation purposes, to be owned by a non-profit or public agency. County has money to move forward on an interim proposal, then on to a permanent.

Jeff McGowan from Public Works continued with the presentation with discussion for the need to protect riparian portions of Cockerham Island. He spoke of the geography of the island and the history of the wishes of the land owners there. This code amendment is to create a way for the County to divide parcels specifically for the need to acquire pieces like the wooded area on Cockerham Island, separating the piece from the home area, for conservation work. There were questions from board members that both Jeff and Ryan addressed. The code amendment proposal is in interim with no inclusion in AgNRL except Cockerham Island. If no permanent code amendment is completed in twelve months the proposal dies.

### **Committee Reports**

Land Use – Mike passed around a packet with land use cover data including GIS maps. Carly, Mike, and Kraig are working to determine the amount of ground in the ag zone. Carly explained the how the color coded maps overlap the arial maps and how to interpret them. Carly answered question from board members about the maps. Board asked for more data and refinement for AgNRL acres determination.

There was more discussion around the board about the previous presentation on the interim ordinance proposal. Land Use Committee agreed to meet to discuss further, and come up with an official comment. The meeting was scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:00PM, at Kraig's office.

Drainage – Kraig discussed the storm water Phase II meeting. He said actions were tabled. Board members agreed to recommend all Ag-NRL land should be removed. Carly explained the technicalities for minimal requirements to be compliant. Kraig made a motion, seconded by Randy, to write a letter to BoCC and Planning Commissioners to state removal of Ag-NRL from NEPS Phase II. Motion passed. Craig volunteered to draft a letter.

CAO – Randy commented on the February meeting presentation by DOE. He talked about how many land owners are not happy with DOE activities. He said Mac is using the Livestock Grazing Draft Proposal to issue rulings. Many people at the meeting were disappointed with the presentation.

Flood – No report.

Nels worked on updating committee members' lists. Outcome: Economic and Development Committee – Mike (chair), Bill, Greg, and Nate.

CAO – Randy (chair), Kim, Murray, Jim, and Nels.

Land Use – Mike (Chair), Kim, Kraig, Lyle

“Flood” and “Drainage and Irrigation” were combined to “Flood and Drainage” - Kraig (chair), Nels, Bob, and Greg.

### **Old Business**

Nels talked about legislation activities concerning the Ruckelshaus discussion extensions. If passed will be for 8 months. Still bouncing between House and Senate.

### **New Business**

Bill spoke on wells and permit fees.

### **Extra Discussion**

Kim spoke of the situation with Rose Merritt and Planning. Rose was granted a permit for commercial kitchen for making pies and other value added activities. Planning has received complaints that the facility has been used to do things outside of the permit. Carly explained the County's rules for roadside stands. The County is complaint driven for enforcement.

Randy asked Carly if anything concerning ag was coming down the pike. Carly reported on the letter of support on the siting memo will be published.

### **Next Meeting**

The next AAB meeting will be April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Commissioner's building.

**Adjourn**

Murray motioned to adjourn, Mike or Greg seconded, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM

Action items:

A letter of comment to be constructed after the Land Use Committee meeting about the code amendment proposal.

A letter to comment on the removal of Ag-NRL from NEPS Phase II – Kraig

Minutes taken by Murray, prepared by Kim