



SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

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Agricultural Advisory Board Minutes August 12, 2010

Present: Nels, Bill, Lyle, Randy, Nate, Jim

Absent: Murry, Bob, Craig, Greg, Mike, Kim

Staff: Carly and Kendra

Guest: Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District General Manager

I Minutes: Lyle moves and Bill seconded to approve both the June and the July minutes. Passed unanimously.

II. Discussion Items:

A. Update on the Samish: Carolyn Kelly gave an update on the Samish tour conducted with DOE and EPA (the Ag Chief Counsel to the EPA Administrator, Larry Ellsworth, attended) on August 11, 2010. It was stated at the meeting to "make decisions not because they feel good, but because they are based on good science." The tour appeared to accomplish a few things like getting to know all of the players and what agency is suppose to accomplish what actions. The Conservation District is not pleased with how the enforcement actions have been handled by the DOE. Neither was Representative Kirk Pearson. They feel they have been very inconsistent and that the DOE has not kept the District in the loop as per the agreement. There was discussion amongst the AAB regarding how enforcement and was allowable and not. It was questioned as to whether or not DOE could just come on some one's property and the answer is yeas they can by authority in the RCWs. It was noted that County staff was in the field with Mack Kaufman from the DOE doing some of the sampling. It was suggested that inappropriate protocol was followed by NOT contacting the Conservation District to follow up with education and trying to get the situation reversed and back into compliance.. It was believed that sampling was to be done both above and below the property in question, not just at the point source. Carolyn mentioned that the CD is no longer doing stream-team work in the Samish due to some citizens getting a little to zealous. Storm sampling is only a sampling, not an indicator as to what is really happening on a daily basis. The intent is to provide a baseline data. Lyle asked Carolyn what the AAB needs to do to help make this better. Carolyn replied, think smarter! Lyle suggested talking to the BoCC suggesting they write the DOE asking them to do the testing properly including taking a sample both above and below the problem area. Jim suggested a letter to the BoCC.

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Nels Lagerlund (Chair), Mike Hulbert (Vice Chair), Murray Benjamin, Jim Carstens, Randy Good, Michael Hughes, Kraig Knutzen, , Greg Lee, Bill McMoran, Kim Mower, Nate Youngquist, Lyle Wesen, Carly Ruacho, Ex-Officio, Planning & Development Services, Don McMoran, WSU Extension.

- B. Changes in Olympia: Carolyn also mentioned that there has been talk about reassigning duties in Olympia and that it is important to keep dairy inspections under the Department of Ag.
- C. Ruckelshaus Update: Carolyn reported that a proposal could be adopted County by County, but if they opt out they may be subject to an appeal. The hope is to work with the conservation districts (voluntarily) to produce an appropriate management plan. No time line or percentages of those who need to sign up have been included at this time.
- D. Drainage Utility Commission: Nels reported that the County is in the process of dissolving these commissions. Said the County didn't really follow the advice of the AAB on this one. Asked to have Dan Berentson give an update at the next meeting.
- E. Economic Repot: Nate said they are working on it and would be contacting the Port.
- F. Other reports: Nothing at this time.

III. Old Business

- A. Discussion on the Envision 2016 update from Carolyn.
- B. Francis Road- not moving at this time. Lyle moved and Bill seconded to table the letter to the BoCC until there is more news.
- C. Nels will be presenting to the BoCC on the Ag Maps and needs Josh's help...will try to get them together.

IV. Bill moved and Randy seconded to adjourn at 8:52.

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