



## SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
Phone (360) 336-3303  
Fax (360) 336-9478

### Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

#### Minutes

#### Members in Attendance

Murray Benjamin      Randy Good      Kim Mower      Jim Carstens      Bill McMoran      Lyle  
Wesen  
Kraig Knutzen              Nels Lagerlund              No Proxys

Members not in attendance – Mike Hulbert, Greg Lee, Bob Hughes, and Nate Youngquist.

#### Others in Attendance

Ken Dahlstedt – Skagit County Commissioner  
Kendra Smith – Natural Resource Coordinator  
Carly Ruacho – Planning and Development Services  
Gary Christensen – Planning and Development Services  
Kirk Johnson – Planning and Development Services  
Henry Hash – Public Works Director  
Jan Flagan – Public Works  
Dan Berentson – Public Works  
Carolyn Kelly – Soil Conservation  
Don McMoran – WSU Extension

#### Speakers

- Kirk Johnson – Spoke on Ag Futures and Envision 2060 Draft Report of Economic Indicators. He passed out copies of summary and said full report could be downloaded from Skagit website. He also provided disks of full report for anyone wanting one. Discussion on potential population growth to 200,000 – 225,000.
- Gary Christensen- Addressed the subject of events held on Ag NRL. Planning wants input from AAB on how to permit events, and what type

*Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:*

*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.*

of events will be allowed. After discussion around the table, a decision was made for a sub-committee will form and meet to formulate a letter to Gary at Planning.

Gary continued with discussion of NRI, and the need to expand on AgNRL. NRI currently has zones, and some can only expand on ag land. Should a business be able to expand on ag land? Do we need to make changes that enable businesses to expand in a timely manner? Gary and Carly from Planning will put together a paper explaining the situation and address it at the next meeting.

- Dan Berentson – Explained the drainage utility and gave some history and uses of the drainage commission. The commission has been inactive for several years and the BoCC will pass a resolution to disband it. Dan talked about the sub flood zones, and how they were funded. There were 11 zones, now 5. Problem projects are complaint driven for work orders, with bigger projects requiring all adjacent property owners brought in. There are limited funds for projects from sub flood control, so some projects get funding from utility.

### **Other Discussion**

Minutes: Murray motioned and Randy seconded the approval of the September Minutes. Motion passed.

Update on the flood issue – Skagit will be a pilot for army Corp. project.

Some discussion about Clean Water and shellfish. Budget to go before BoCC next week. Progress on Samish Clean Water from EPA grants.

Carolyn gave out handouts. Don talked briefly about Farmer’s School, irrigation systems, WFSDA grant.

Murray led discussion on east county flood alerts. Flood number – 428-3250

Flood hotline – 336-9400

Bill moved, Jim seconded the meeting adjourn. Motion passed. Time 8:26 PM

### **Work items**

- Sub committee to meet to discuss Commissioner Dahlstedt’s suggestion of a forum of ag groups to discuss events on ag land. A letter will be constructed to send to Planning

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- A letter from AAB to Planning addressing NRI expansion on ag land. Before or after November meeting?

Minutes by Murray, prepared by Kim

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