



## SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

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### Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010

#### Minutes

#### Members in Attendance

Murray Benjamin (proxy for Jim Carstens)      Bill McMoran Randy Good Lyle Wesen  
Kim Mower    Nate Youngquist    Nels Lagerlund      Greg Lee      Kraig Knutson  
Members not in attendance: Mike Hulbert      Bob Hughes James Carstens

#### Others in Attendance

Kendra Smith – Skagit Natural Resources  
Gary Christianson – Skagit Planning and Development Services  
Dan Berentson - Skagit Public Works  
Carolyn Kelly – Skagit soil Conservation  
Ryan Walters – Skagit Prosecuting Attorney  
Dave Lervick

#### Meeting Call to Order, Minutes Review

Chair Nels Lagerlund called the meeting to order at 6:01PM. The Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. Bill motioned and Randy 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept Minutes as corrected. Motion passed.

#### Guest Speakers

Dan Berentson spoke on flood alert texting and phone calls by the County. Texting will be possible through a Twitter account, and also flood alerts can be obtained by the County's facebook page and website. He showed a copy of the County's Comprehensive Emergency Plan.

Carolyn passed out copies of the Ruckelshaus report and bill draft. Ryan discussed the report and also said the draft bill is still in construction. Discussion about these and where to send comments.

Bill spoke about the NRI expansion of Wilbur Ellis, passed out maps describing the property. Bill had met with W E personnel on expansion plan, and described the Ag-NRL areas for the project. They assured Bill they won't ever need another expansion and have no objection to putting remaining acres in Farmland Legacy. Gary gave information about the Hearing's Examiner process, and helped with questions about County procedure and code language. He explained that if a new NRI business started up they would need to process their plan through a Comprehensive Plan, and be

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steered away from Ag ground. Kim motioned for code change to allow first expansion of NRI on AgNRL to go through Hearings Examiner, second expansion subject to Comp Plan process. Randy seconded. More discussion with Kraig and Bill having reservations about the future unforeseen circumstances that could hinder the business. Kraig motioned to amend Kim's motion by striking the second level expansion requirement. Bill seconded. Members voted on Kraig's motion, motion passed. Members voted on Kim's motion as it stood, motion passed.

More discussion about conservation easements.

Dave Lervick concerning his plans and wishes for his potential property for Christmas tree growing, sales, and other activities. Discussion in depth about events on AgNrl, with Gary helping. Bill motioned to have a Land Use meeting for further discussion, Kim seconded, motion passed.

### **New Business**

Carolyn passed out numerous papers. She spoke of water use and situation with DOE.

Nels spoke of the Taylor' Shellfish party. Dinner was good, lots of education.

Discussion of Farmland Legacy's grant to update plan.

Murray spoke about his meeting with Patsy Martin at Port of Skagit, and gave an update for an Ag Center (yeah!)

### **Adjourn**

Kraig motioned, Lyle seconded, to adjourn. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM

Work items

Land Use Committee to meet. Nels will e-mail and call members to set this up.

Minutes taken by Murray, prepared by Kim

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