



SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

**1800 Continental Place
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Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

May 11, 2011

7:00 PM

1800 Continental Place

Members in Attendance

Bill McMoran Mike Hulbert Kraig Knutzen Kim Mower Lyle Wesen Nels Lagerlund
Randy Good Jim Carstens Murray Benjamin
Members not in attendance - Greg Lee Nate Youngquist

Others in Attendance

Don McMoran – WSU Extension
Carolyn Kelly – Skagit Soil Conservation
Kendra Smith – Skagit Natural Resource Coordinator
Carly Ruacho – Skagit Planning and Development Services
Michael Hughes
Jeff Schwab

Call to Order, Introductions,

Minutes

Chair Nels called the meeting to order at 7:01 after passing around copies of letters of interest to fill the vacant post on the AAB. Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. Introductions were made all around. Mike moved, Murray seconded, to approve Minutes as amended. Motion passed. Murray transferred the responsibility of Minutes taking to Kim for this meeting.

Guest Speaker

Carolyn reviewed the video recording of Gov. Gregoire's criticism of Skagit's Clean Samish Initiative. She reviewed how efforts will be ramped up with intensive inspections, and with dairies getting heavier inspections on May 15th. More scrutiny will be ramped up on other livestock operations on June 1st. DOE will look closer at manure storage facilities, and ag communities becoming more active with a Peer to Peer program to get the message out to get problems under control and minimize corrective actions. Letters are being sent to problem land owners, with a 48 hour window of expected action. DOE, Conservation Commission, and District, will negotiate their Memorandum of Agreement.

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:

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

There was discussion around the table regarding priority creeks and watersheds. Carolyn reported the six month goals.

- a. No more than 1 shellfish closure this fall.
- b. By Nov 1st the CSI Executive Committee will evaluate sampling sights on parcels on Highway 9.

The discussion diverted to talk about Gov. Gregoire's expected signing of the Ruckelshaus bill. Nels reported about a meeting held at Skagit Farmer's Supply to get the message out to other livestock circles and individuals about the Samish problem.

Randy reviewed a letter from Jack Field, WCA, to Gov. Gregoire regarding the Samish problem. Carolyn told the group CSI Education Committee was looking for a new recruit from the ag community.

Committee Reports

- I. Econ Dev – Don reported the Port wants to facilitate ag groups to vision an agriculture future in Skagit. The meeting will be located at the Research Center, date to be determined.
Kendra talked about the Snohomish Focus on Farming program.
- II. Land Use - no report
- III. Envision 2060 – Kim updated the board about the 2060 project. She asked for discussion about TDRs and PDRs. Board members were informative about the highly successful Farmland Legacy Program PDRs. Kim also talked about making a recommendation for an Agriculture Heritage Sight in Skagit Valley.
- IV. CAO – Randy provided information about a study of comparison of different species shedding quantities of e. coli in their manure. He also read from a letter written by Jack Field to Gov. Gregoire regarding the Samish problem.
- V. Flood and Drainage – Kraig had no report.

Old Business

- a. Update on Shoreline Advisory Committee. Kendra said has not been determined. She explained a bit about what the timeline may be like for the adoption of a shoreline plan.
- b. Letters for AAB position – Kendra reported 8 people were interested in the opening, 4 of which qualified for the position. Actually 3 letters and 1 phone call. Discussion around the table was of the 3 letter applicants. Murray moved, Bill seconded, recommending Michael Hughes as a new member. Motion passed. Nels will submit a letter to BoCC recommending Michael Hughes for the position.

New Business

None

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Extra Discussion

Kendra talked about the upcoming meeting of the FLP strategic planning. She reviewed some of the challenges in determining how properties are selected for the program. Discussion around the table about how FLP functions in ranking properties.

Carly put to the board her question from PDS regarding the administrative interpretation of development on Ag-NRL, should the requirement of earning at least \$100.00 per acre for 3 years prior to building a non ag residential dwelling unit include as a total the acres that are removed from ag production as a result of CAO? Discussion all around on the issue.

Kraig moved to require the language to say legal farmable acres. Murray seconded. After much discussion Kim moved to table the issue until next meeting. Randy seconded, motion passed.

Adjourn

Murray moved to adjourn, seconded by Mike. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM

Minutes taken and prepared by Kim

Work items:

- a. Nels to submit a letter to BoCC regarding accepting Michael Hughes for the vacant position.

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