



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 (AAB) Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2012
Crane Conference Room, County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Jim Carstens, proxy for Murray Benjamin	Randy Good
Mike Hulbert	Kraig Knutzen
Nels Lagerlund, Chair	Bill McMoran
Kim Mower, Vice Chair	Lyle Wesen

Others in Attendance

Dale Pernula, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services

Call to Order

Nels called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Consent Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Introductions

The AAB welcomed Dale Pernula, the new Skagit County Planning and Development Director.

New Shoreline Sub-Committee

Kraig Knutzen, Kim Mower, Mike Hulbert, and Nels Lagerlund are members of the new Shoreline Sub-Committee.

Minutes

Randy motioned to accept the April 11, 2012 meeting minutes as presented and Bill seconded. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

Shoreline

Kraig initiated a discussion regarding a proposed agriculture designation change from Rural Conservancy to a Natural Designation or the new classification of Conservancy – Skagit Floodway. This change is for the area from Hwy 9 all the way up the South Skagit Highway, Cockreham Island area. The AAB discussed Rural Conservancy situations. The Shoreline

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:

Nels Lagerlund (Chair), Kim Mower (Vice Chair), Murray Benjamin, Jim Carstens, Randy Good, Bob Hughes, Kraig Knutzen, Greg Lee, Bill McMoran, Nate Youngquist, Lyle Wesen, Don McMoran, WSU Extension Mike Hulbert.

Advisory Committee (SAC), working with the Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) update, will be discussing this on their meeting scheduled on June 14th.

Kraig, a member of the SAC, said that he is in favor of leaving the Rural Conservancy Designation as is; however, the designation change will be a part of the “draft” SMP and will be presented to the Skagit County Planning Commission (PC) in the near future. Written comments will be accepted by the PC until the close of business, June 29th. The “draft” document is a working document and will continue to evolve.

The AAB desires to make a statement through a letter written to Betsy Stevenson, project lead for the SMP and the SAC. A copy will be forwarded to the Skagit County Planning Commission expressing their concern. Randy moved that this statement be made in the form of a letter signed by the AAB Chair which will reflect comments made by Kraig opposing an agriculture designation change from Rural Conservancy to a Natural Designation or the new classification of Conservancy – Skagit Floodway. Mike seconded the motion and the motion passed.

There was further discussion regarding a separate, but similar letter that would be written to the Planning Commission by the Shoreline Sub-Committee addressing the same designation change. A motion was made and seconded to produce such a letter. After further discussion the AAB decided to postpone this action until after the June 14th SAC meeting. The motioned was withdrawn. Depending on the outcome of the June 14th SAC designation discussion, the AAB determined to call a special meeting (if needed) on June 27th to discuss and write a letter to the PC.

Flood & Drainage

Nels voiced his concern regarding county ditches, designated as salmon streams and monitored by drainage districts that are not maintained by the county. He asked why the county doesn't have a maintenance agreement with these districts or Department of Ecology? Lyle suggested that Mike Rundlett from Western Washington Ag Association might be able to help get some answers.

Old Business

Transfer of Development Rights Project(TDR)

There was a brief discussion regarding the handouts provided by Kirk Johnson for the TDR kick-off meeting scheduled on June 19th before the Board of County Commissioners and the application request for the two TDR Advisory Committee's At-Large Members.

Agriculture Summit

Kim gave an overview on her experience at the recent Agriculture Summit held at the Brightwater Education Center, in Woodinville, Washington on May 3, 2012. Approximately 50 farmers and interested county staff representing 8 Puget Sound counties attended the event. Skagit County Commissioner, Ron Wesen, was also in attendance. Kim said that her presentation, on behalf of the AAB, was well received. The Summit presenters gave presentations on how to involve citizens in agriculture and showed what their

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agency/organization had to offer with their particular programs. Kim provided a PowerPoint presentation with a perspective of the Skagit County AAB. Her emphasis was on how the AAB functions and what we do as a group. To hear all the presentations go to the following link: [Agriculture Commission & Advisory Board Summit, May 2012](#)

Adjourn

The next regular meeting will occur on July 11th, 7 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.