



SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
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Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Special Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2012
Crane Conference Room, County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Randy Good, proxy for Jim Carstens
Nels Lagerlund Chair, proxy for Kraig Knutzen
Nate Youngquist
Michael Hughes
Kim Mower Vice Chair

Others in Attendance

Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District
Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services

Call to Order

Nels called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Agriculture Designation Change Discussion

The purpose of the meeting today is to discuss the Natural agriculture designation presented to the Planning Commission recently and decide if another letter is necessary to meet the June 29th comment deadline.

Kim read definitions regarding Rural and Natural conservancy and presented maps produced by the Watershed Council that showed areas in "blue" as the floodway. Kim said she understands that the County is under pressure to follow flood rules and homeowners here have expectations on how and where they want to build; however, they are restricted because of the flood zone rulings. The Shoreline Advisory Committee's desire to change the entire region upriver to a natural designation is restricted and has limited abilities for growth.

A memo written by Betsy Stevenson, Senior Planner from the county to the Planning Commission addressed the creation of a special shoreline environment designation for the floodway of the middle reach of the Skagit River. A portion of the memo reads:

The information sent to the SAC included a management policy that read:

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:

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

6A-3.3 The following uses should not be allowed in the Conservancy-Skagit Floodway environment:

- a) Agricultural*
- b) Commercial uses*
- c) Industrial uses*
- d) Residential*
- e) Roads, utility corridors, and parking areas that can be located outside of the Skagit River floodway*

Unfortunately, including agricultural uses on this list was a mistake that has caused justifiable concerns of landowners and farmers in that area. It was never the intention to restrict ongoing agricultural activities.

The special designation is actually geared towards building in the floodplain, not agriculture in the floodplain. A discussion continued over the maps provided by the Watershed Company consulting firm that is working with the County to assist the update to the Shoreline Master Plan. The AAB has questions and concerns on how the rural conservancy is designated on the maps. It's beyond 200 feet.

The AAB determined that no additional comments are needed for submittal to the Planning Commission at this time. The current Shoreline Master Plan Update is still in a draft form.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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

*Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:
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Kraig Knutzen, Greg Lee, Bill McMoran, Mike Hulbert, Nate Youngquist, Lyle Wesen, Don McMoran, WSU
Extension.*