



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
September 12, 2012
Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Nels Lagerlund (Chair)	Kraig Knutzen
Randy Good	Bill McMoran
Michael Hughes	Lyle Wesen
Jim Carstens	

Others in Attendance

Don McMoran, WSU Extension
Carl Molesworth, Port of Skagit County
Steve Omdal, Port of Skagit County
Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District
Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services

Call to Order

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

It was noted that Bill will proxy for Murray Benjamin this evening.

Consent Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda

Minutes

Lyle motioned to accept the July 11, 2012 meeting minutes as presented and Jim seconded. The motion passed.

Special Presentation -

Brook Brower, a graduate student working with Dr. Stephen Jones of the WSU Cooperative Extension, presented information about a barley testing program. He spoke about how various barley varieties are being tested here in the northwest for growth and harvest. A couple of end uses for barley are for feed and malt. Various seeds tested are from other parts of the world and United States. Farmers who want to read and compare barley types can now go to the WSU extension website at <http://plantbreeding.wsu.edu/varietyTrialsWesternWA.html>. This barley study is supported by the Port of Skagit County and the Clif Bar Family Foundation.

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:

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

Other Business

Nels spoke about a beef co-op and the possibilities that the Port of Skagit County could support this type of facility. There is a beef co-op in Whatcom County. Steve Omdal felt the Port of Skagit County could have a conversation with the AAB regarding their support of a beef co-op.

Committee Reports

Shorelines

Kraig mentioned that the draft Shoreline Master Plan Update has been sent to the Department of Ecology and a response should be received later this month. The Skagit County Planning Commission has reviewed the Plan and had several comments.

Flood & Drainage

Nels said the following items are up for discussion for next Monday's meeting: levy setback, Joe Leary bypass, and dam storage among other items that will be discussed.

Don McMoran gave an update on an irrigation grant funded through the Department of Agriculture.

New Business

AAB Member Resignation

Kim Mower, AAB member representing District 3 resigned this week. A letter of resignation is on file for the record.

The AAB conducted a brief discussion on who should assume the role of AAB Vice Chair. Lyle motioned that Kraig Knutzen assume the role of Vice-Chair of the AAB and Bill seconded. The motion passed.

Linda will take the necessary steps to advertise for the District 3 vacancy.

Skagit Conservation District Update

Carolyn spoke about the ramifications that the Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program may suffer as a result of issues raised in a white paper called the Treaty Indians Tribes in Western Washington titled *Treaty Rights at Risk, ongoing Habitat Loss, the Decline of the Salmon Resource, and Recommendations for Change*, July 14, 2011. Proposed changes to the way the Federal Farms and Ranch Lands Protection Program funds millions of dollars in match for Washington State conservation easements are under discussion. One potential new requirement of special interest is to allow higher scoring for properties that have riparian habitat. Carolyn is asking for the AAB's signature on a letter expressing their concerns about the proposed new guidelines. Carolyn will forward a draft letter to Nels and he will have a draft letter ready by the next AAB meeting scheduled for October 10, 2012.

Carolyn mentioned upcoming meetings of interest. A fecal viability webinar is coming up - the notice had been forwarded earlier by Linda. The next Clean Samish Initiative meeting is

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:

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

scheduled for September 27, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the county administration building and the plan is for an interactive format with the public. On October 24th is a presentation by Dr. John Buckhouse from WSU, 7:00 p.m. at Padilla Bay concerning bacterial contamination in streams by livestock. On October 17th, 3:30 p.m. at the WSU Extension office will be a presentation by the Skagit Science Consortium on climate change and salmon habitat.

Carolyn continued her discussion on pending drainage issues and gave an update on the Samish Watershed financial reporting. She also mentioned that the South Dakota Ag Leadership Program delegation was here for a farm tour this week.

WSU Anniversary

Don McMoran gave an update on the WSU Extension 90th anniversary event. The event was well attended and he thanked the Port of Skagit for their support. On October 30th there will be a harvest seminar at the extension office for students. The Family Farm Festival will be held on October

Adjourn

The next regular meeting will occur on Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Today's meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.