



**SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**1800 Continental Place**  
**Mount Vernon, WA 98273**  
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**Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes**  
**October 10, 2012**  
**Skagit County Administration Building**

**Members in Attendance**

Nels Lagerlund (Chair)	Kraig Knutzen (Vice Chair)
Randy Good	Bill McMoran
Michael Hughes	Lyle Wesen
Jim Carstens	Murray Benjamin
Mike Hulbert	

**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 7:00 p.m.

It was noted that Michael will proxy for Greg Lee this evening.

**Consent Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda

**Minutes**

Bill motioned to accept the September 12, 2012 meeting minutes as presented and Lyle seconded. Michael noted an error in the document footer listing Mike Hulbert as a part of WSU Extension. The motion passed as amended.

**TDR Project Update**

Linda read an update from Kirk Johnson who was attending an American Planning Association conference in Olympia. The following bullets were mentioned:

- To date, there have been two meetings of the TDR Advisory Committee with the most recent held on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Meeting notes and other materials are being posted on the project website as they become available: [www.skagitcounty.net/TDR](http://www.skagitcounty.net/TDR).
- Three handouts were distributed: work plan, TDR Advisory Committee roster list; and draft meeting notes from the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*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, Mike Hulbert, Nate Youngquist, Lyle Wesen, Don McMoran, WSU Extension.*

- The TDR Committee will hold their regular scheduled meetings the second Thursday every other month, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in this building. The next meeting is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Linda listed the four major objectives from the September meeting and the major focus for the upcoming November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- A project update will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners during the Planning Department's regular agenda time on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Hulbert, a member of the TDR Advisory Committee, gave his take on the process so far and asked the AAB for their input. Mike said he is keeping an open mind and will proceed cautiously as meetings continue. There was a brief discussion regarding the Mary Heinrich TDR study report which is posted on the Planning & Development Services website. The AAB said the work plan seemed aggressive. Nels mentioned that an AAB member should attend the next TDR Advisory Committee meeting scheduled on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **Committee Reports**

### Flood & Drainage

Nels said that Thomas Creek in drainage district 14 was cleaned out and was pleased with the result. This is the area by the Samish River up to Kelleher and F&S Grade Road.

### Shorelines

Kraig mentioned that the Shoreline Advisory Committee meetings have been postponed because the draft Department of Ecology report was not ready. He expressed frustration that reading materials are not received in a timely manner. The Committee's response to information received so far has been on the defensive and the due process has been frustrating.

## **Old Business**

Carolyn Kelly presented the AAB with the letter draft to Sherre Copeland, Partnership Liaison for USDA/NRCS who is requesting input on the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program.

Mike motioned to approve the letter and Lyle seconded. Further discussion by Mike who said there should be a reference point in the quoted paragraph. Carolyn will add the reference point and e-mail to Linda who will put the comments on AAB letterhead. Nels will forward the letter to Ms. Copeland and copy Linda who will copy the Board of County Commissioners. The motion passed as amended.

## **New Business**

### Elk Populations in Eastern Skagit County

There was a discussion regarding the Elk imported from the Mount St. Helens area which has contributed to the Elk population increase and how it affects agriculture.

### Clean Samish Initiative (CSI)

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Randy and Nels attended the recent CSI meeting. There was a discussion on how the new Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership, Tony Wright, is addressing the potential to pollute issue. Randy said the meeting sounded positive. Carolyn spoke about her impression of the meeting and felt frustrated that she was the only one bringing up monitoring issues.

#### Swinomish meeting

Carolyn reported that under new procedures from the federal level, (in response to the "Tribal White Paper") local tribes may ask for an opportunity to have concerns regarding how the implementation of federal programs may be negatively impacting their tribal treaty trust rights addressed via a forum with the applicable federal agency. The Swinomish Tribe has exercised this option, and will be meeting with WA State NRCS at a forum on October 5th, to be held here in Skagit County. They will be discussing potential changes to Farm Bill programs .

#### CREP

Lyle and Carolyn discussed the CREP program in regards to drainage districts.

#### **Adjourn and Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting will occur on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 6 p.m.

Today's meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.