



SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
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Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2013
Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Murray Benjamin	Jim Carstens	Brian Duquaine
Kraig Knutzen (Vice-Chair)	Nels Lagerlund (Chair)	Greg Lee
Dan Lefeber	Bill McMoran	

Others in Attendance

Kirk Johnson, Skagit County Planning	Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Steve Omdal, Port of Skagit	Don McMoran, WSU
Daryl Hamburg, Dike District 17	Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District
Brandon Roozen, Western Washington Ag Assoc.	Brian Williams, WDFW

Call to Order

Nels Lagerlund called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Introductions were made for Brandon Roozen, representative from the Western Washington Ag Association. Brandon replaced Mike Shelby.

Minutes

Greg Lee motioned to accept the April 10, 2013 meeting minutes and Murray Benjamin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Farm Fish Flood Initiative (3 FI) Update

Daryl Hamburg and Brian Williams were present and gave an overview of the program. The AAB initially heard about the program at their November 2012 meeting. Tonight's discussion was primarily by Brian giving the WDFW perspective. Fish doesn't always mesh well with agriculture regulatory issues and because fish and agriculture overlap each other it was beneficial to begin a conversation, which is how the 3 FI began. Brian spoke about the specific role WDFW is responsible for in the 3 FI study. WDFW and NOAA are co-managing the hydrodynamic model. Salmon restoration is a part of their priority for this project.

Daryl said there is a priority list from the dike and drainage district perspective on what is important, i.e. striving to enhance flood risk management, on a small or large scale with no adverse effects. The dynamics of all dike structures need to be consistent along all areas.

*Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:
Nels Lagerlund (Chair), Kraig Knutzen (Vice Chair), Murray Benjamin, Jim Carstens, Dan Lefeber
Greg Lee, Bill McMoran, Mike Hulbert, Nate Youngquist, Michael Hughes, Tyler Clark, Brian Duquaine*

Carolyn Kelly, speaking in regards to the farmland protection strategy says that one of goals is to protect an addition 2,700 acres which is over and above what is currently being protected. The concentrated area is west of Sedro-Woolley.

Brandon Roozen mentioned the Industrial Agriculture Cluster Study and how it works. The study is co-managed by Skagitians to Preserve Farmland and Western Washington Agricultural Association.

Brian said that the grant funding the 3 FI is scheduled to end by December 2013. Draft reports will be available in the near future as involved groups move forward.

Transfer of Development Rights Project

Kirk Johnson gave an overview of the project status to date. The project is currently in the feasibility stage and a market analysis contractor is completing work to help determine if a TDR program could work in the Skagit Valley. A TDR concept is a way to preserve land. Kirk spoke about the TDR committee and their role and summarized the TDR goal draft statement.

Public Works Update – GI Study:

Kara Symonds gave an update and the four alternatives. The preferred alternative is pending and more information will be known in July. A discussion continued with Kara and the AAB regarding the Joe Leary Slough alternative. Kara will speak at the July AAB meeting.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

New Business

WSU Update

Don spoke gave an update on a number items: met with NRCS regarding the use of Skagit County Port buildings for potential agriculture producers; new WSU Extension staff hires; corn grant on the Lagerlund property; canning workshop; irrigation smart phone application training; WSU recreation tour scheduled for July 11, 3:30 p.m.; agriculture unit meeting July 10, 11, 12; and handler producer permit training end of July.

Port of Skagit Update

Steve Omdal gave an update of an upcoming visit to the Port of Vancouver. He also noted that local employment looks good.

Adjourn and Next Meeting

Today's meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm and the next meeting is scheduled for July 10' 7 p.m.