



SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
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Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2014
Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Jim Carstens	Barbara Cleave	Michael Hughes
Ty Clark	Dan Lefebber	Nels Lagerlund

Others in Attendance

Dale Pernula, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Betsy Stevenson, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Don McMoran, WSU Extension
Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning

Call to Order

Chair Nels Lagerlund called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Proxy Designation

Nels Lagerlund is proxy for Brian Duquaine. Jim Carstens is proxy for Murray Benjamin.
Michael Hughs is proxy for Greg Lee.

Minutes, March 12, 2014

Dan Lefebber moved to accept the March 12, 2014 meeting minutes as amended and Jim Carstens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update

Betsy Stevenson was present to give a Shoreline Master Program update. She gave a general overview of the program and the status of the Advisory Committee. The Planning Commission is discussing the SMP during their March, April, and May sessions and has added an extra session each of those months to cover the large amount of material. Betsy provided a handout related to agriculture. Betsy said there will be a 60-day public comment period towards the end of summer 2014. She will plan on making a follow-up report to the AAB during one of the summer meetings.

Nels asked if the current version contained many changes from earlier drafts, and Betsy said that the RCW changed and briefly spoke about those changes. Jim Carstens asked for a clarification regarding vegetation.

Planning and Development Review Department (PDS) Update

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:
Nels Lagerlund (Chair), Kraig Knutzen (Vice Chair), Murray Benjamin, Jim Carstens, Ty Clark,
Barbara Cleave, Brian Duquaine, Mike Hulbert, Michael Hughes, Greg Lee, Dan Lefebber, Bill McMoran

Dale Pernula was present to provide an update regarding the number of large projects they are currently working on: 1) The Shoreline Master Plan update is one of the larger projects, which Betsy covered this evening; 2) The Transfer of Development Rights project is moving along into Phase 2 where decisions by the Board of County Commissioners will be made soon; 3) Initiative 502, the Marijuana Initiative, is generating a lot of questions. PDS has posted a memorandum on their website explaining what zones are available for crop production. Dale or Brandon Black is the staff contact for questions. Dale said that all permits require state approval first and then county approval; 4) Comprehensive Plan Amendments; 5) The Flood Plain Regulation project is addressing violations; 6) The 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update; 7) Rural Forestry Initiative; 8) Natural Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

Dale said he will notify the Ag Advisory Board on any agriculture related projects.

The AAB discussed the increased rail traffic and its implications on farmland.

Jim asked if PDS is involved with wildlife planning and Dale said possibly indirectly through the transportation component of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update, but that will have to be well thought through. Jim said there is a large community concern about elk encroaching on agriculture land.

Committee Reports

Flood & Drainage

Nels spoke about drainage ditches and slough sign naming. He is concerned that some ditch names are really sloughs. He has obtained a map showing ditch and slough names and is working with the county to correct any errors.

Nels also mentioned that the Samish had high fecal counts once again due to the rains. Don McMoran said that the governor's office is considering doubling the water quality standards. The AAB discussed ideas to bring a third party to farms that could test water quality and the source of fecal coliform. Don will inquire if WSU can hire a monitoring specialist. Another idea is the Conservation District.

WSU Update

Don provided information on upcoming workshops & events. This week is a pesticide training opportunity and there will be a future farm safety class for youth taught by Don. On May 8th is a special event celebrating 100 years of Washington State Extension.

Ag Leadership

Ty Clark said that the Ag Leadership is looking for new membership.

Adjourn and Next Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2014 at 7 p.m.