



SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
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Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2014, 7 p.m.
Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Nels Lagerlund	Barbara Cleave	Michael Hughes
Brian Duquaine	Murray Benjamin	Kraig Knutzen

Proxy Designation

Barbara Cleave for Ty Clark
Michael Hughes for Greg Lee
Murray Benjamin for Jim Carstens

Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Don McMoran, WSU Extension
Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning

Call to Order

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

Minutes, April 9, 2014

Michael Hughes moved to accept the April 9, 2014 meeting minutes as amended and Murray Benjamin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Skagit River Flood Risk Management General Investigation

Kara Symonds, Watershed Planner for Public Works, gave an overview of the Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Skagit River Flood Risk Management General Investigation Study (GI). Kara distributed 3 handouts: public comment information, a map showing damage reaches with a 100-year existing condition inundation, and a map showing the Comprehensive Urban Levee Improvement Alternative, which is currently on the table as the prime alternative consideration. The following are key points of the GI which the full text is located at <http://1.usa.gov/1lOKjzk>

- Public comment period is from June 6 to July 21, 2014.
- A public information meeting is scheduled to present the proposal for Federal action, the alternatives considered during the Flood Risk Management Study,

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and the tentatively selected plan on Thursday, June 19, 2014, Skagit Station Community Room, 105 E. Kincaid, Mount Vernon, Washington, 6:00 p.m.

- The goal of the plan is to identify a plan that reduces flood risks and contributes to national economic development consistent with protecting the Nation's environment, pursuant to national environments.
- Two key objectives of the GI is to reduce flood damages in the Skagit River Basin over the 50 year project life from 2020 to 2070 and to reduce threats to life safety in the Skagit River Basin over the same time period.
- Universal constraints state that the Corp of Engineers will ensure that the project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat.
- Study specific constraints state that the Wild and Scenic River status of the upper Skagit, Cascade, and Sauk-Suiattle Rivers precludes formulation of flood risk management measures that would permanently harm the rivers' free flowing condition for these areas. Additionally, to comply with Skagit County Code, the project should avoid direct and indirect loss of agricultural lands wherever there is a practicable alternative.

Michael Hughes asked how high the levies can be raised. Kara responded that the levies can handle an additional height of three to five feet. The Corp indicates that the current levies can be built up and widened. There was discussion regarding the transfer of risk through mitigation.

Nels suggested that another comment letter will be written and submitted as part of the public comment deadline. The Drainage Committee will meet on a on June 25, 2014.

Committee Reports

Shoreline

Nels Lagerlund has concerns about certain areas of concern regarding the Shoreline Master Plan Update. He will study the changes that affect agriculture and schedule and subcommittee meeting.

Flood & Drainage

Clean Water Resolution:

Nels said that the reauthorization of the Skagit County Clean Water (shellfish protection) District Program and reestablishment of the budget and finance rates and charges were signed by the Board of County Commissioners on June 3, 2014 by Resolution R20140165.

WSU Update

Don McMoran reported that a recent Interlocal Agreement, C20140237, was recently signed by the Board of County Commissioners. The County agrees to provide office space for exclusive use of the WSU Skagit County Extension, provide access to the Skagit County GIS department for the creation of maps and provide funds to carry out Extension educational programs for residents of Skagit County. All current County employees will no longer be employees of the County and WSU Skagit County Extension will function as a contracted service.

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Adjourn and Next Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2014 at 7 p.m.

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