



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
August 20, 2014, 7 p.m.
Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Nels Lagerlund	Barbara Cleave	Michael Hughes	Jim Carstens
Ty Clark	Kraig Knutzen	Mike Hulbert	

Proxy Designation

Nels Lagerlund for Greg Lee
Jim Carstens for Murray Benjamin

Others in Attendance

Don McMoran, WSU Extension
Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning Administrative Coordinator
Dan Berentson, Skagit County Public Works Director
Ryan Walters, Skagit County Civil Prosecuting Attorney

Call to Order

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

Consent Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda. Don McMoran will provide an WSU update.

Minutes, July 9, 2014

Kraig Knutzen moved to accept the July 9, 2014 meeting minutes and Michael Hughes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

Skagit County Public Works, the lead county department for the VSP, is asking the AAB for their feedback on a draft resolution initiating County participation in the State Voluntary Stewardship program that will protect and enhance critical areas where agricultural activities are conducted. Comments are due to Public Works no later than Friday, August 22nd.

Dan Berentson gave a brief overview of the VSP, Work Plan deadlines and the formation of the watershed group that will develop a Skagit County Work Plan required by Washington State law

*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*

to protect critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities through development regulations. This group will be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Ryan Walters gave a historical overview of the VSP. In 2011, the Board of County Commissioners adopted an ordinance electing to enroll Skagit County, and all of its watersheds in a VSP. Washington State anticipated providing the funding for counties enrolled in VSP, however, Skagit County has determined the funding will come through the counties Clean Water Fund. Skagit County has invested millions of dollars in an effort to clean up the counties watersheds and most likely these funds can be used as match dollars.

The AAB asked how the VSP differs from other voluntary county programs. Dan responded that those programs can be used in conjunction with the VSP to meet the Work Plan goals, i.e., the AAB can be represented on the Watershed Group or another local agriculture group. Dan said an example of the AAB role on this group will be to help establish milestone goals.

Ryan suggested the AAB make comments now in regards to the draft resolution on committee selection. Nels has concerns regarding drainage and that drainage districts should hold a seat on the Watershed Group.

The AAB worked on a letter addressed to the Board of Commissioners explaining changes or additions to the draft resolution. The draft letter will be distributed via e-mail to the AAB Thursday, August 21st and Nels will sign the final on Friday, August 22nd.

Motion:

Ty Clark moved to approve the letter to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the draft Voluntary Stewardship Program Resolution that will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners. Any changes to the letter made via e-mail are approved as amended. Kraig Knutzen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)

Kirk Johnson was not available to give an update. Linda said that the recent TDR presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is available on the county website which will show where the project is to date. The BCC may consider moving forward with certain aspects of the project on September 16. Public comments have not formally been requested, however, the AAB can make comments to the BCC now. The AAB decided to discuss this subject further at the September 10th meeting.

Shoreline Master Program Update (SMP)

Ryan gave an update and said the SMP is temporarily on hold. Several chapters need a re-write which has slowed the process. The Planning Department is working on several other deadline slated projects for this fall. It is possible, but not likely, that the SMP work will continue before the end of this year and the public process could occur early 2015.

Dan Berentson Update

Dan suggested that the AAB receive an update from the Noxious Weed Board at their October meeting. Dan also suggested that the AAB receive updates on the Flood Fish Initiative every couple of months.

Dan mentioned that Dike District 12 is interested in becoming a dike and drainage district. More details will be available in the near future. He also said that Dike and Drainage District 19 will be making future improvements.

Don McMoran Update – WSU Extension

Don reported that the transition from Skagit County to WSU is going well. Skagit County WSU Extension staff are fully funded through WSU and connected through the WSU computer system. This change has saved Skagit County money which will allow additional staffing and programs. In other exciting news, Don reports that a food lab is coming to the WSU Extension complex at the Port of Skagit County, which will be directed by Dr. Stephen Jones.

Skagit County Code Compliance

Nels is interested in having the new Code Compliance Officer, staffed through the Planning Department come to a future AAB meeting. Ryan Walters said the code enforcement/compliance of the Skagit County Code is currently under reorganization.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.