



**SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**1800 Continental Place**  
**Mount Vernon, WA 98273**  
**Phone (360) 336-3303**  
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**Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes**  
**September 10, 2014, 7 p.m.**  
**Skagit County Administration Building**

**Members in Attendance**

Nels Lagerlund                      Barbara Cleave                      Michael Hughes                      Jim Carstens  
Ty Clark                                  Murray Benjamin

**Proxy Designation**

Nels Lagerlund for Brian Duquaine  
Michael Hughes for Greg Lee

**Others in Attendance**

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning Administrative Coordinator  
Dan Berentson, Skagit County Public Works Director  
Kirk Johnson, Skagit County Planning Department  
Allen Rozema, Skagitionians to Preserve Farmland  
Lisa Janicki, Candidate for Skagit County Commissioner District 3

**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.

**Minutes, July 9, 2014**

Ty moved to accept the August 13, 2014 meeting minutes and Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Update**

Dan Berentson provided an update. Approximately one month ago, Public Works requested comments and presented information to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the VSP (for additional information, please go to August 13, 2014 AAB meeting minutes). The AAB submitted their comments in addition to a few other groups. On Tuesday, September 16, 2014, Public Works will present a Resolution to the Board of Commissioners that will authorize Public Works to move forward with a 60-day process to advertise for the Watershed Advisory

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Committee. The Board of Commissioners will appoint the advisory members based on their qualifications and diversity that will have a positive impact on the program.

### **General Investigation Study Update (GI)**

Nels asked Dan Berentson for an update on the GI. Dan said that Kara Symonds, Watershed Planner for Public Works, himself, and Commissioner Ron Wesen will meet with the Corp of Engineers on September 29 in Seattle regarding the chosen alternative. Kara is currently working on a scope of work for the early phase of the project.

### **Noxious Weed Board Update**

Dan Berentson said that the Noxious Weed Board will soon become a Division of Public Works. Jim and Dan are working together to efficiently help with the transition. A complete update will be provided at the October AAB meeting.

### **Transfer of Development Rights Project (TDR)**

Kirk Johnson provided an update and distributed a slide presentation handout that assisted with the discussion. Kirk mentioned the TDR Advisory Committee role, and the report that was produced as a product of their meeting discussions. He also said that this is a grant funded project through the Environmental Protection Agency passed through the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Dan Berentson asked about funding and deliverables. Kirk responded that there is a small amount of funding left and that amount will be expended, depending on the outcome of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) decision on whether to move the project forward or not. This discussion/decision will occur at the BCC Regular Agenda time on September 16. Kirk discussed the deliverables.

There was a discussion amongst all regarding the difference between transfer of development rights (TDR) and purchase of development rights (PDR). Allen Rozema mentioned that the Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program (FLP) is a PDR program. He explained how the tax dollars funding this program are currently obligated and how they could be used in the future according to Washington State law. Allen is optimistic about this TDR project and the potential it has for setting the ground work for future funding opportunities. He also said that this TDR program can be designed to complement the FLP.

### **Other Business**

Lisa Janicki, candidate for Skagit County Commissioner 3, provided a few comments complimenting the Ag Advisory Board for their time and effort put forth on this Board.

### **Next Meeting**

Due to conflicting schedules, the October meeting is undetermined. Updated information will be provided in an e-mail and on the county website.

**Adjourn** The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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