



SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

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**Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2014, 6 p.m.
Skagit County Administration Building**

Members in Attendance

Nels Lagerlund	Barbara Cleave	Michael Hughes	Murray Benjamin
Ty Clark	Greg Lee	Kraig Knutzen	Mike Hulbert

Others in Attendance

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning Administrative Coordinator

Call to Order

Chair Nels Lagerlund called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2014

Mike Hulbert moved to approve the October 8, 2014 meeting minutes as revised and Murray seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

November 12, 2014

Greg moved to approve the November 12, 2014 meeting minutes, adding his name and removing Murray Benjamin as a revision. Ty Clark seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Comments

Nels said that comments are due January 8, 2015. He has drafted a letter and is asking that Linda send out the draft for all to review and comment before finalized. Once all comments and edits are incorporated, the AAB will do a vote of approval via e-mail.

Other Business

Linda brought forward written comments from Planning Department Staff: 2014 Comprehensive Docket Update, Shoreline Master Program Update, and the 2015 Department Work Program.

2014 Comprehensive Docket

Kirk Johnson provided a handout that describing what is proposed to add to the 2014 Docket of Comprehensive Plan Amendments policies and code to implement a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and Density Credit program consistent with Resolution R20140298 adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

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 Lefeber, Bill McMoran

He also described in the handout what will happen if the Board adds TDR to the 2014 Docket. Planning and Development Services will work on drafting proposed TDR and density credit policies and code, based on the Board's direction in Resolution [R20140298](#) and the TDR Advisory Committee's majority recommendation (see back page). As the proposal is being developed, but before it is ready for formal public release, the Department will meet with the Planning Commission and the Agricultural Advisory Board and the Forest Advisory Board to seek their input on the proposal being developed. A finished TDR proposal would likely be formally released for public review and comment and Planning Commission hearing and deliberations in the second half of 2015.

The public hearing for this docket is scheduled for Monday, December 15, 2014.

Mike Hulbert, a member of the TDR Advisory Committee, explained to the AAB why he felt the TDR program would not work in Skagit County, especially on land designated AG NRL. Mike will make a personal testimony at the public hearing.

Nels said he was concerned about grant money spent on the TDR program. Kraig asked that a letter from the AAB be submitted while the public comment period is open. Kraig provided draft language and Linda will type up a formal letter and the AAB will approve through e-mail. Motion: Tye moved that a comment letter be submitted for public comment and Mike seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Shoreline Master Program Update (SMP)

Nels gave an update to the AAB provided by Betsy Stevenson.

The County's legal department is working on revising and polishing the draft SMP document, based on comments received and discussion with the Planning Commission. Staff hopes to have a draft ready for final review by the Advisory Committee in the first quarter of 2015.

Draft maps and initial documents are in the final stages since the inception of the update process.

A formal adoption process will begin after the Planning Commission has reviewed the draft. The process includes: Notice of Availability, SEPA determination, 60-day review and comment period, and a public hearing before the Planning Commission.

In 2015 there will be a public open house to share the draft SMP document. This is chance for the public to ask questions and look at the maps. The open house date is not confirmed.

2015 Department Work Program

The following projects are included in the work program and approximate start and end dates:

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- 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update, 2/1/2015 to 12/31/2015
- Completion of the Shoreline Master Plan Update, 2/1/2015 to 6/1/2015
- 2014 Comprehensive Plan Amendments, 8/1/2015 to 10/31/2015
- Rural Forestry Initiative, 4/15/2015 to 7/31/2015
- NPDES/Drainage Code update, 1/1/2015 to 4/1/2015
- Capital Facilities Plan, 8/1/2015 to 10/31/2015
- Transfer of Development Rights code, 4/1/2015 to 10/31/2015

A few members of the AAB said they are interested in the NPDES/Drainage Code update and this will be discussed further in 2015.

Nels discussed the current AAB member vacancies. One district 3 vacancy is currently advertised through the end of December.

Elections

The floor opened for Chair and Vice-Chair elections. Greg moved that Nels Lagerlund remain as the AAB 2015 Chair and Kraig Knutzen remain as Vice-Chair. The majority show of hands approved the motion.

AAB Goals

Nels suggested that each AAB member share what they would like to work on or accomplish in 2015.

- Mike Hulbert said the subcommittees should be reviewed. Nels said this will be on the January agenda. He also said we should invite all the commissioners to meetings throughout the year.
- Kraig asked that Linda invite Brandon Roozen to the January meeting for an update.
- Ty would like to see agriculture economic development topics.
- Barbara also said that the subcommittees should be reviewed and she is interested in serving. She is also concerned about the recent farmworker housing issue. Nels will speak with Steve Sakuma asking him about the future of farmworker housing and how the AAB can get involved.

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Nels gave a brief update on the current bill for the Manure Application Program.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2015 6 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.