



SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
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Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2015, 7 pm
Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Murray Benjamin | Jim Carstens | Mike Hulbert |
| Michael Hughes | Kraig Knutzen | Nels Lagerlund |
| Terry Sapp | | |

Members Absent

| | | |
|----------------|----------|----------------|
| Brian Duquaine | Ty Clark | Barbara Cleave |
| Scott Hanseth | | |

Proxy Designation

Mike Hulbert for Greg Lee

Others in Attendance

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Dale Pernula, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Gary Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Brandon Roozen, Western Washington Ag

Call to Order

Chair Nels Lagerlund called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Agenda Review

Nels added Brandon Roozen to the agenda to discuss the 2015 drought.

Meeting Minutes

Kraig moved to approve the June 10, 2015 meeting minutes and Terry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2015 Drought

Brandon Roozen, Executive Director for Western Washington Ag, discussed the current drought situation for the local farmers. Brandon focused on Drainage Districts 15 and 22 whose sole water source is the Skagit River. These two districts recently received water because of water right reallocations from the Skagit Public Utility District and the City of Anacortes. Brandon also discussed the flow criteria that established the instream flow and how that relates to water draw for area farmers. As

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of today, Washington State Governor Inslee had not released the drought relief funds. Brandon hopes that Skagit County will be included in the relief funds.

Brandon developed an emergency resolution, signed by all drainage districts sent to Governor Inslee. It would be beneficial for the governor to travel to Skagit County to view the drought situation. He said future outreach may be organized in the near future to educate the local community on the current drought and its implications on crops.

The AAB discussed the need for a letter to the Board of County Commissioners requesting their support.

Motion:

Kraig Knutzen moved that the Ag Advisory Board send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners describing the Skagit County drought status. Jim Carstens seconded the motion.

Motion Amendment:

Murray Benjamin moved to amend the motion to include that Skagit County should do everything possible to declare a drought emergency. Jim Carstens seconded the amendment.

Discussion:

Terry Sapp spoke about other counties who have declared an emergency. He also stated that this declaration needs clarification.

Michael Hughes said it's been really dry and we anticipate an emergency.

Nels Lagerlund asked how do we know when to declare an emergency? The letter should mention the emergency.

The Motion Amendment carried unanimously.

The original Motion to send a letter carried unanimously.

2016 Comprehensive Plan Update Code Amendments

Dale Pernula gave an overview of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update. Three code amendments include:

1. C-12 Skagit County Code 14.38.030, Natural Resource Land disclosure mailing
2. C-13 Skagit County Code 14.38.030(1)(b), Natural Resource Land disclosure recording
3. C-14 Skagit County Code 14.16.870, Notification of development activities on or adjacent to designated Natural Resource Lands

The Skagit County Planning Commission scrutinized these three code amendments and asked staff to discuss further with the AAB. Gary Christensen provided historical background information and how these three codes provide a service to the community.

AAB comments:

Kraig and Nels said all three codes should remain. Code Amendment C-14 needs additional review and discussion. Nels said that the AAB's Land Use Committee should discuss further.

Dale will take the AAB's comments to the next Planning Commission meeting.

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Voluntary Stewardship Program Update

Ty provided a handout via e-mail because of his absence. In Ty's e-mail he wrote that there was not a lot to report. The county is still drafting what the program will include when submitted to the Conservation Commission.

Other Business

Nels read a letter that Ty composed to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the need to develop an Ag Summit using EDASC funds.

Motion:

Kraig Knutzen moved to approve the Ag Summit letter written to the Board of County Commissioners and Mike Hulbert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 7 pm.

Today's meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

*Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:
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