



SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Phone (360) 416-1338

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2015, 6 pm
Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Murray Benjamin	Jim Carstens	Barbara Cleave
Michael Hughes	Kraig Knutzen	Greg Lee

Members Absent

Ty Clark	Steve Bertelsen	Brian Duquaine
Scott Hanseth	Nels Lagerlund	Terry Sapp

Proxy Designation

Michael Hughes for Scott Hanseth

Others in Attendance

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Kirk Johnson, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Ryan Walters, Skagit County Civil Attorney Division
Don McMoran, WSU

Call to Order

Vice Chair Kraig Knutzen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Agenda Review

There were no changes to the agenda.

Meeting Minutes

Michael moved to approve the September 9, 2015 meeting minutes and Murray seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Conservation and Development Incentives (CDI) Program Update

Kirk and Ryan spoke about different CDI aspects. Kirk explained this program is now titled CDI, not TDR and briefly explained the change. The population projections from the State indicate an additional 35K people could move here in the next 20 years, which is the current Mount Vernon City population. Kirk said as a Skagit County resident, he hears the community values our rural community and wants to

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preserve agriculture. The handout Kirk provided explained: Why have a CDI proposed program? What is CDI? Where does it work? What are the CDI benefits?

Ryan showed a few CDI examples, with and without the existing code and an outcome comparison.

Kirk mentioned the upcoming CDI public hearing with the Planning Commission, scheduled for Monday, November 2, 6 pm. The public comment deadline is Thursday, November 5, 4:30 pm. E-mail comments to pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us with the subject line "Comments on CDIP" and more information can be found at www.skagitcounty.net/cdip.

AAB comments:

Jim asked about the fee schedule structure and Ryan briefly explained and said this information is on the CDI website. Kraig asked about how CDI would work for a few different scenarios. Ryan said a challenge applies to several scenarios to this program, and each will need to be addressed. Michael asked about the city interest. Kirk discussed the Burlington Heritage Program and other cities could be interested to preserve lands around the city boundaries.

Voluntary Stewardship Program Update

Ryan gave a brief update and program overview. The Advisory group is developing the Work Plan and working diligently to complete this task before the end of this year. The AAB had several questions about planting, old trees along buffers, and critical areas regulatory rules.

Other Business

Don provided an Ag Summit update. The survey process has started. Don also provided meeting minutes from the October 7 meeting. The summit will be held early 2016 and span over two days. Additional details will be available in the next month or two.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 6 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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