



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

**Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes**  
**November 4, 2015, 6 pm**  
**Skagit County Administration Building**

**Members in Attendance**

Jim Carstens                      Steve Bertelsen Ty Clark                      Barbara Cleave  
Scott Hanseth                      Michael Hughes                      Nels Lagerlund Greg Lee

**Members Absent**

Murray Benjamin                      Brian Duquaine                      Kraig Knutzen Terry Sapp

**Proxy Designation**

Michael Hughes for Greg Lee

**Others in Attendance**

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services  
Steve Omdal, Port of Skagit County  
Don McMoran, WSU

**Call to Order**

Chair Nels called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**Agenda Review**

Two items were added: Ag Summit and Farmworker Housing

**Meeting Minutes**

Barbara moved to approve the October 14, 2015 meeting minutes and Michael seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**New member announcements**

Nels announced two new members effective January 1, 2016. Commissioner Ron Wesen appointed Sloan Johnson for district one, which replaces Brian Duquaine, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki appointed Steve Omdal for district three, which replaces Ty Clark.

**Conservation and Development Incentives (CDI) Program Update**

*Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:*  
*Nels Lagerlund (Chair), Kraig Knutzen (Vice Chair), Murray Benjamin, Steve Bertelson, Jim Carstens, Ty Clark, Barbara Cleave, Brian Duquaine, Scott Hanseth, Michael Hughes, Greg Lee, Terry Sapp*

Nels announced that the public comment period for the Planning Commission public hearing will close on Thursday, November 5. He read the letter the AAB sent to the Board of Commissioners December 2014. Nels said he learned receiving areas are not in the city. Don explained that the County already has the Farmland Legacy Program and a transfer of development rights program will reduce its work. Nels is concerned that the proposed CDI program will increase population densities in rural Skagit County. The AAB mostly spoke about increased densities in rural village zoned areas.

Nels also commented that the proposed program has several missing details and is concerned that funds might be mishandled. The AAB discussed that Planning staff should come to another meeting to further explain the proposed CDI program.

Steve Omdal affirmed that the AAB role is to defend agriculture land and rural villages should not be a receiving area. Nels suggested the AAB write a letter as part of the public comment process. Main points will be: concerned with cities not participating in the CDI program and that the GMA goals of 80% of growth in the cities would be reduced.

Barbara made a motion that the AAB write a letter expressing their concerns and submit it as part of the public comment process for the proposed CDI program. Michael seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tye suggested that AAB members as a group or individually approach the Board of County Commissioners to voice concerns.

#### **Voluntary Stewardship Program update**

There was no update.

#### **Other Business**

##### Farmworker housing:

Nels gave a brief update and mentioned information is on the county website and the link is [here](#). The AAB would like Dale Pernula to update the AAB at the next meeting.

##### 2016 Comprehensive Plan update:

Nels gave the AAB mentioned the Comp Plan Update and several community meetings discussed the specifics of the update.

##### Ag Summit update:

Don announced that the Ag Summit dates are confirmed, March 3 and 4, 2016 and distributed a flyer.

##### SCOG meeting update:

Steve Omdal spoke about the recent SCOG meetings and affordable housing. He will bring additional information to the AAB soon.

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.

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**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 6 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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