



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

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2015, 6 pm
Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Jim Carstens	Ty Clark	Barbara Cleave
Kraig Knutzen	Scott Hanseth	Michael Hughes
Nels Lagerlund	Greg Lee	Terry Sapp

Members Absent

Murray Benjamin	Brian Duquaine	Steve Bertelsen
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Proxy Designation

Michael Hughes for Greg Lee

Others in Attendance

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Dale Pernula, 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

Don requested the Ag Summit be added to the agenda.

Meeting Minutes

Ty moved to approve the November 4, 2015 meeting minutes and Jim seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Farmworker Housing/Raspberry Ridge Update

Dale distributed the proposed Farmworker Housing Masterplan. The drawing was developed by RMC Architects. The map shows the location for the seven-unit duplex with 14 units and parking.

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:

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The City of Burlington is requesting improvements to Lafayette Road. Sewer and road improvements are under discussion with the City of Burlington and Skagit County. A request was made to the GMA Committee to expand the Burlington UGA, although the City has not approved to this date. The Planning Department's 2015 Docket Supplemental Report dated 11//18/2015, ongoing discussions with the City and the Housing Authority is ongoing and a conclusion to those discussions should be reached by the year end

Nels asked if there would be a ag land swap. The county approached the city, but it was not accepted. Dale said the Housing Authority has funding for sewer connections and to make improvements to the road; however, this funding isn't nailed down. The County is trying to package this project with several funding partners. Terry spoke about how the state housing cooperation law allows local jurisdictions waive certain regulations.

Nels responded to Kraig regarding who is the regulatory authority to monitor the new complex intended use for seasonal works and Nels said it's up to the Housing Authority to enforce.

Collectively, the AAB is concerned how the Housing Authority will monitor seasonal workers. Nels will meet with Ron Wesen to start the discussion.

2015 Comprehensive Plan, Map, and Code Amendments Docket

Dale presented items on the 2015 Docket Proposal. He clarified the term deferred means the item could be brought forward at another time.

The AAB asked questions about the deferred item submitted by Skagit Partners. Dale said population issues need resolution. Nels said drainage is not addressed and is concerned District 14 can't handle additional water coming off the hill. Dale said the County recently adopted a Stormwater Ordinance, effective January 1, 2016.

Kraig asked when will the next population projections occur? Dale said the next update would occur seven years from now, though the County can perform an update sooner if needed. Dale discussed the Bayview Ridge project.

The Drainage Sub-Committee will keep close tabs on projects affecting drainage and Nels suggests the Board of County Commissioners receive a letter addressing these concerns.

Conservation and Development Incentives (CDI) Program Update

Dale said the Planning Commission recommended denial for the CDI program. The Department will present the Planning Commission's recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, December 15.

Nels said he felt the CDI program would be beneficial and work with the Farmland Legacy Program. Terry Sapp attended the recent Planning Commission CDI deliberation and has a further program understanding.

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Voluntary Stewardship Program update

There was no update tonight, but Ty will send Linda updates through e-mail as more information is known.

Chair and Vice- Chair Elections

The nomination for AAB Chair opened. Ty nominated Nels Lagerlund. Kraig Knutzen closed the nomination. Greg Lee seconded the nomination. A majority show of hands elected Nels Lagerlund as the AAB Chair for 2016.

The nomination for AAB Vice-Chair opened. Greg Lee nominated Kraig Knutzen. James Carstens closed the nomination. Terry Sapp seconded the nomination. A majority show of hands elected Kraig Knutzen as the AAB Vice-Chair for 2016.

Other Business

Ag Summit update

Don announced many speakers are committed and the agenda is due out soon. The summit is scheduled for March 3 and 4, 2016.

Flood Event Coordination

Don said he is representing WSU as the large animal rescue coordinator for major flood events.

Western Washington Ag Update

Greg mentioned it's time the AAB invite Brandon Roozen to a future AAB meeting for an update as there are many items up for discussion.

Ag Economic Development Update

Terry spoke about a new development regarding mobile slaughter units. A second USDA mobile slaughter unit is being developed for our area. The cooperative name is North Cascades Meat Reducers Cooperative and there are 37 members. For more information: <http://www.northcascademeads.com/>

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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