



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

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2016 6 pm
Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Murray Benjamin	Scott Hanseth	Michael Hughes	Sloan Johnson
Kraig Knutzen	Nels Lagerlund	Greg Lee	Terry Sapp

Proxy Designation

Murray Benjamin for Jim Carstens
Nels Lagerlund for Barbara Cleave

Members Absent

Steve Bertelsen Steve Omdal

Others in Attendance

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Don McMoran, WSU Extension

Call to Order

Nels called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Agenda Review

Nels added the Comprehensive Plan 2016 Update

Meeting Minutes

Greg moved to approve the February 10, 2016 meeting minutes and Murray seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Comprehensive Plan 2016 Update

Goal 3C-10.7

The AAB discussed whether a home-based business in rural zoned areas is appropriate if the business is not agriculture related. Still, the AAB doesn't want to discourage someone from starting a small business; this is economic growth and they are supportive. However, it's a concern if the business became large.

Don McMoran felt the small business should be complimentary to agriculture and kept small. Terry is concerned about business expansion, growth is inevitable. Nels favors policy 3C-10.4, Home-Based

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Business 2, but not sure about policy 3C-10.5, Home-Based Business 3. He will contact Brandon Black of the Planning Department to inquire the intention of this policy. Is it only three employees? Can it be more, and what is the maximum?

Goal C5, Natural Resource Industrial, 3C-5.5, Policies Specific to Agriculture NRL

Nels questioned whether it is beneficial or not to leave the language as is. The Planning Department has suggested that the entire section be removed. Michael asked what is the harm to remove it? Greg felt the language should remain, otherwise growth possibilities is eliminated. It was a consensus of the AAB that the language remains, but will discuss again at the next meeting.

C-34 Rural Business

Nels said the changes in the C-34 Rural Business zone is a good idea and should be supported by the AAB.

Old Business

Kraig congratulated Don for a successful ag summit held last week. There were 144 registered attendees and all speakers were excellent. The summit organizers gathered topics of interest and will address these soon. Don will present a full report to the Board of County Commissioners on May 10.

Don reported that the Skagit Blueberry workshop is coming up soon and the annual Farm safety course.

There was a discussion to reschedule the AAB meeting in April to a date when a Skagitionian to Preserve Farmland board member can attend the meeting. Nels will research this option.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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