



Agriculture Advisory Board

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Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes October 13, 2016, 6 pm Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Barbara Cleave Michael Hughes Sloan Johnson
Kraig Knutzen Steve Omdal

Proxy Designation

Michael Hughes for Greg Lee
Kraig Knutzen for Terry Sapp

Members Absent

Murray Benjamin Steve Bertelsen Jim Carstens
Scott Hanseth Nels Lagerlund

Others in Attendance

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

Call to Order

Kraig called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Michael moved to approve the September 14, 2016 meeting minutes and Barbara seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Proposal

The Ag Advisory Board (AAB) intention today was to compose a letter to the Board of Commissioners expressing their concern for a proposal submitted by Skagitationians to Preserve Farmland (SPF), #P-13. The County received notice from SPF that their proposal, P-13, was pulled from the docket process. Kraig recommended the AAB meet with the SPF board to discuss related topics.

Other Business

Don said the 2017 Ag Summit is scheduled for Saturday, February 25 at a location to be determined. The event will be no cost to attendees if funding becomes available from various agencies and groups. Topics at the summit will include: Ag land preservation, water, and labor. The keynote speaker is Jim McFerson, Director of the WSU Tree Fruit Research Center.

In other WSU extension news:

- Seed workshop on January 13 and potato workshop on February 24
- Conservation Innovation Grant through NRCS/USDA
 - WSU received \$455K over a three year period. The funds are for irrigation programs that will increase farming efficiencies. This grant stimulates the development of innovative approaches and technologies on ag land.
- Innovation Partnership Zones
 - Andrew Miller, EDASC Director of Business Retention and Expansion, will lead an Ag Marketing course which will create a marketing campaign for the Skagit Valley.

Steve spoke about the possibilities of growing the grain, Quinoa. He said Senator Cantwell is supportive to introduce funding if a test trial becomes available.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.