

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2017, 7 pm

Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Nels Lagerlund	Michael Hughes	Murray Benjamin	Barbara Cleave
Tim Van Hofwegen	Steve Omdal	Terry Sapp	Sloan Johnson

Members Absent

Steve Bertelsen	Greg Lee	Kraig Knutzen	Scott Hanseth
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Others in Attendance

Roger Wechsler, Co-Owner of Samish Bay Cheese
Kathy Jewell, Skagit County Planning & Development Services

Call to Order

Nels Lagerlund called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Began meeting with introductions of Kathy Jewell and the AAB members.

Meeting Minutes

Barbara Cleave moved to approve the June 14, 2017 minutes, Michael Hughes seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Local Issue - Proposed Jurisdiction Change

Skagit County Commissioners released a statement regarding the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's (SITC) constitutional amendment decision on July 10.

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Home/press/071017.htm>

The decision clarifies that approval of the constitutional amendments does not expand the boundaries of the SITC reservation to include March's Point, and that approval of the constitutional amendments is not intended to expand SITC jurisdiction over off-reservation land, people or resources, other than tribal members engaged in hunting or fishing

Local Issue - Voluntary Stewardship Program

The Skagit County Voluntary Stewardship Program work plan was approved. Details on the Skagit County website at <http://inside.skagit.local/departments/publicworksnaturalresourcesmanagement/vsp.htm>

We will invite Kara Symonds to our August meeting to tell us about this program.

Local Issue - Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture (VCWGA)

This council is through the Department of Ecology and has solicited for new group participants for their advisory board. The deadline to submit a letter of interest is July 18, 2017. Steve Omdal will contact and inquire about the frequency and location of meetings.

Local Issue - Agri-Tourism

Andrew Miller from EDASC was unavailable to join this meeting. He will be our guest speaker at the September 13 meeting and discuss what EDASC is working on regarding agri-tourism.

EDASC is hosting a seminar on agri-tourism and festivals on July 24th; details will be forwarded to the AAB board members. Steve Omdal advised that the Port is working on economic development and works closely with EDASC and looking at business models in Oregon that may also work in the Skagit valley.

Old Business - Proposed Code Changes, Roger Wechsler

Roger is putting together a proposed change to the code 14.16.400 to present to Skagit County Board of County Commissioners requesting a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for 2018. He is asking AAB members for their input before proceeding. The advice given was to simplify his code addition to fit his needs and call it 7a. AAB will further discuss how they want to support Rogers request and agri-tourism.

NO COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adjourn

Barbara Cleave moved to adjourn, Murray Benjamin seconded.

Next meeting August 9, 2017 at 7 pm.