

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

September 12, 2018

Skagit County Administration Building

Meeting Summary prepared by Kathy Jewell, PDS

Members in Attendance

Nels Lagerlund	Michael Hughes	Barbara Cleave	Murray Benjamin
Tim Van Hofwegen	Steve Omdal	Terry Sapp	Kraig Knutzen
John Morrison	Scott Hanseth		

Members Absent

Greg Lee

Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Dan McCarty, Skagit County Public Works
Hal Hart, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)
Kathy Jewell, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)

Call to Order

Nels Lagerlund called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Minutes

Murray moved to accept as amended the August minutes, Michael seconded. Motion carried.

Local Issues

Guest Presenters -

Kara Symonds – Skagit County Public Works

Skagit County Public Works hired a consultant, NHC, to do some flood modeling in order to support an interior drainage plan. Getting flood waters off roadways and the floodplain in a more expedient manner was a consistent comment during the Skagit River General Investigation process. Working with districts 5 and 25, the County has identified three locations where additional floodgates are warranted. These include Bayview Edison Road North, Bayview Edison Road South, and Farm to Market Road at the Samish River.

There are also funds available to look at the rest of the delta outlets and to perform some preliminary analysis on their capabilities of moving flood waters after an event. This includes the outlet of Joe Leary, Swinomish Slough and Fir Island. Able to bring the consultant into a meeting later to present the modeling and key findings if the group is interested. Also could perhaps also have a sit down meeting with the drainage subcommittee at some point to get feedback on a list of measures that are proposed to reduce the amount of time water is over the roads and floodplain.

Committee Reports & Updates

- a. Economic development- Steve Omdal (Chair), Terry Sapp, Don McMoran
 - i. Agri-tourism code/policy going forward. Code is permissive (can be done) not written to say what is or should be limited or prohibited. Code defines allowed uses; if it is not in the code, it is not allowed. Steve brought up what if the original business fails, then what happens to the property/zoning? New could be non-conforming use. Discussed the enforcement issues? Hoping the County decides to do the long range study. AAB wants to be involved with Planning Departments process of shaping code for agri-tourism.
 - ii. What is the outcome we want from meeting with cities & chambers?
 1. Get public to value the farmlands of Skagit County.
 2. Centralized Pybus Market type here in Skagit County, discussed possibilities to help facilitate it.
- b. Critical Areas – Nels Lagerlund (Chair), Murray Benjamin
- c. Land Use – Sloan Johnson (Chair), Michael Hughes, Scott Hanseth, Barbara Cleave
- d. Flood and Drainage – Kraig Knutzen (Chair), Greg Lee, Scott Hanseth
 - i. Add irrigation to this committee
 - ii. Discussed the formation of the Skagit Drainage & Irrigation District Consortium.
 - iii. Discussed the Water Supply Joint Legislative Task Force, meeting Oct. 3rd.
 1. Tasked to get water for housing.
 2. AAB would like to get water for irrigation.
 - iv. Why no Skagit County government official on the taskforce?

Old Business

Conservation Districts request for rates & charges tax increase, article in newspaper mentioned a cap. Discussed redundancies and impact on farmers and public comment period.

Seattle City Lights relicensing farmers need to be included to discuss irrigation, not only flood issues.

The meeting was adjourned by the Board at 8:35 pm