

# Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

## Meeting Summary – May 8, 2019

### Skagit County Administration Building

#### Members in Attendance

Michael Hughes	Nels Lagerlund	Barbara Cleave	John Morrison
Justin Hayton	Kraig Knutzen	Murray Benjamin	Steve Omdal
Steve Wright	Terry Sapp		

#### Proxy Designations

John Morrison for Tim Van Hofwegen

#### Members Absent

Scott Hanseth                  Tim Van Hofwegen

#### Others in Attendance

Jenna Friebel, Skagit Drainage and Irrigation District Consortium  
Hal Hart, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)  
Kathy Jewell, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)

#### Call to Order, Introductions

Michael Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

#### Approval of Meeting Summary

Barbara Cleave moved to accept the April 10, 2019 summary as amended, Nels Lagerlund seconded. Motion carried.

#### Guest Speaker

**Jenna Friebel – Executive Director of Skagit Drainage & Irrigation District Consortium**

Avalon proposal caused concern about runoff so Jenna began working on stormwater issue. Desire to work on policy or code amendments to protect against development outside the UGA. Looks like Planning Commission had started looking at an amendment to the comp plan but never completed.

Jenna talked about the stormwater process and regulations that Department of Ecology (DOE) places on Skagit county. She passed out a map that has areas in green have adopted stormwater controls. Outside the green area county should adopt the 2012 ecology manual.

Jenna focused on #7 flow control – systems put in place 100 years ago, designed for a fairly undeveloped upstream system. WWHM model by DOE and Jenna described it and how it is used to assess the site. Discussed predeveloped conditions versus post developed conditions. Discussed how the 2012 manual is designed to help control the peak runoff.

Green line if LID manual was adopted as part of stormwater update. The most protection that the drainage districts could get. A tough standard to apply but the best for areas where drainage is limited. This standard would raise the infiltration and would not be a popular route with developers. To get to this need to update the stormwater code and a comp plan amendment.

How does this template apply to areas that do not have irrigation districts? Jenna explained how it is triggered by a building permit. Talked about how county already looks at each building permit for stormwater. Issues are flooding, water quality, erosion, etc.

AAB asked what would it mean to the whole county if the entire county had to follow the same regulations as the green. This is a first start into the issue, in an exploratory phase. Doesn't seem to have any framework to work within so it's not so subjective for the BOCC. That will allow the county to grow as it needs, but still be addressing the issues of stormwater. Jenna has been reaching out to the various districts and having meetings.

AAB asked where PDS in the process, Hal responded that Michael Cerbone, the long range planner, is started next week and will be coming to meet the AAB. Stormwater was part of the 2017 work program, but never completed. Nels asked about the process for comp plan amendment and the timeline.

Hal asked question about how uphill development is impacting water – thinking of starting to track how much development has started uphill. Uphill does not drain equal to the farmland. Kraig explained whoever at the bottom of the basin is the last to drain. Murray pointed out it doesn't have to be a house, if logged out, if campgrounds put in, etc.

## New Business

### **HAL HART, PDS Update**

Handed out the first quarter information on permits in the AG-NRL zones. Discussed that permit numbers are on track same as last year. Talked about how development you see now is last year's permits. The 20 permits this year are mostly residential, not many agricultural buildings. Hal offered to have it mapped for AAB.

State legislator and PUD coming together about PUD expanding water lines. PUD received funds to figure out where to put water. Looking at 3 different places and Hal will give more info at the next meeting.

### **Don McMoran, WSU Extension Update**

July 2020 budget is due

State 1.5% cut on back of retirees, so program is shrinking

New Associate Dean of extensions – 3 candidates

Grants: really involved working on 2 grants. Cover-cropping, irrigations, PS partnership grant and going after 2 large USDA Agribility, Beginning Farmer Rancher.

Scott Hanseth has expressed to resign. Michael will reach out and find some interested parties for Commissioner Dahlstedt to contact.

## Committee Reports

### **Economic Development- Don McMoran**

Don complimented Commissioner Omdal for his persistence with a company, very hopeful they will locate here in the valley. Another visit from largest pickle producer in world, working with Port to try to find a site and WSU to develop a trial. Profile is for all sizes of cucumbers.

**Critical Areas** – Nels Lagerlund

Per Nels; County approved the clean water assessment and believes the rates raised.

**Land Use** –Barbara Cleave (Chair), Michael Hughes, Scott Hanseth, John Morrison, Steve Wright

Nothing this month

**Flood, Drainage & Irrigation** – Kraig Knutzen (Chair), Nels Lagerlund, Scott Hanseth, Steve Wright

Anacortes water issues, drainage district is going to have to help. Talked about the article in the newspaper regarding the rate increase.

**Old Business**

**Skagit Conservation District (SCD) Rate Increase**

Kathy will follow-up and ask them to come speak to the AAB again – June or July

The discussion was about the process of how they will submit to BOCC and have a public hearing. They are meeting with SPF and WW Ag. AAB discussed how they can comment for the public hearing. SCD did not make any changes that were suggested last time. They didn't reduce the fee for multiple parcels. Members are concerned about overlap of services and increase in fees.

**Adjourn**

Nels moved to adjourn, Murray seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting is June 12, 2019 at 7 pm