

# Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Summary – October 9, 2019 Skagit County Administration Building

## Members in Attendance

Nels Lagerlund	Barbara Cleave	Justin Hayton
Murray Benjamin	Steve Omdal	Kraig Knutzen
Steve Wright	Terry Sapp	Don McMoran, WSU

## Proxy Designations

Nels Lagerlund for Michael Hughes

## Members Absent

Michael Hughes  
John Morrison

## Others in Attendance

Michael Cerbone, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)  
Hal Hart, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)  
Kim Adams, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)  
Danny Aguilera, Department of Labor & Industries (Community Relations)

## Call to Order, Introductions

Nels Lagerlund called the meeting to order at 5:59

## Approval of Meeting Summary

Justin Hayton moved to accept the September Minutes with spelling corrections, Kraig Knutzen seconded. Motion carried.

## Guest Speaker

### **Michael Cerbone, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)**

Michael presented on the items of interest on the current Docket. He handed out a packet regarding the three items on the 2019 Docket that the AAB requested more information on from the September meeting. Michael believes there are also items in the next year that the AAB may have concerns about and would like them to be a part of the Docket process in the next year.

- Michael explained how the docket works- the docket is to amend the Comprehensive Plan where the community can submit requests to change code. The Board of County Commissioners review the docket and choose which ones to present to the Planning Commission for approval.
- Michael sent out links prior the meeting via email regarding the three Docket items from last month that the Board asked for more information
- Kraig Knutzen & Steve Wright mentioned they could not open the links, Michael will follow up with links that they can open to view the items
- Nels asked if the PDS supports the three items-The three items discussed are all staff initiated
- The next Public Hearing meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup>

- Suggested AAB reach out to the Land Use Community and propose a meeting, (Barbara to follow up with this within the next couple weeks) come up with a letter or be there in person to present testimony to the Planning Commission regarding any concerns you may have about the 2019 Docket (in person is more impactful)
- The three items that may have an effect on Agriculture land are:
  - C-2: Drainage District Coordination
  - C-4: Trails in the OSRSI
  - C-5: Habitat Restoration Classification
- Michael plans to defer the Stormwater Review to the 2020 Docket, he would like more time to review and look at the code requirements. He would like to sit down with the Drainage & Irrigation District to get the Stormwater codes that will address the main concerns.
- Steve Wright mentioned that the Drainage Districts don't know about the changes are not following through. Michael suggested sending an email to all of the Drainage District Commissioners. Steve W. does not think they all check their email and may not get the information promptly.
- Kraig Knutzen mentioned the Drainage Districts hold general meetings at the Allen Fire Department and it may be good to have Michael go and hear what they need and provide feedback.
- The Stormwater Review update has been being worked on for four years and not gone through, they would like specific standards at a higher level for the entire county, not just the cities.
- Michael will come back to a meeting once he consults with Public Works and the Drainage and Irrigation District to gain the knowledge to help better answer the Agricultural Advisory Board's questions.
- Regarding C-5 Habitat Restoration Classification- Nels & Don spoke about the Agriculture Board helping push this item through about 10 years ago to slow the process down.
- Nels will try to get information regarding the Rural Reserve- contact Alan Roseman to get the tracking areas SPF classification if they are different for Agriculture land. Don McMoran saw the Preliminary report and doesn't believe a final report will be publicly released.

## New Business

None at this time

## Committee Reports

### Economic Development- Don McMoran

- Don attended the TMDL meeting along with Brandon Roozen
- Department of Ecology are focusing on three sub basins
  - Nookachamps
  - Hansen Creek
  - Fisher Carpenter
- There were only three Agriculture representatives in the meeting and Don encourages more involvement
- Tribes are pushing for more trees as buffers. Trees harbor pests, trees may not be the only answer for the buffers to control the temperature, need to look for more alternatives
- There will be two more meetings-Don doesn't feel like the Agriculture voice is being heard
- Don will follow up with information on the next meeting
- Don has not heard anything back about the submitted budget. May be coming out of the red- currently on a hiring freeze. Hoping to be able to hire in 2020 for positions that were lost.

#### GRANTS:

- Cover Cropping
- Irrigation
- Suicide Prevention Grant from the Department of Health
- USDA Arability Grant to provide Assistive Technology to Farmers
- Pro-Bost (Vice President) position available, may be hiring in 1-2 years

#### Critical Areas – Nels Lagerlund

Nothing at this time

#### Land Use – Barbara Cleave (Chair), Michael Hughes, John Morrison, Steve Wright

Nothing at this time

#### Flood, Drainage & Irrigation – Kraig Knutzen (Chair), Nels Lagerlund, Steve Wright

Nothing at this time

#### Old Business

Nothing at this time

#### Adjourn

Nels Lagerlund moved to adjourn, Justin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm

Next meeting is November 13, 2019 at 6 pm