

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board  
Meeting Summary – July 14, 2021  
Skagit County Administration Building  
Commissioners Hearing Room/ MS Teams

[Members in Attendance](#)

Michael Hughes	John Morrison	Justin Hayton	Steve Wright
Kraig Knutzen	Murray Benjamin	Steve Omdal	

[Proxy Designations](#)

Steve Omdal for Terry Sapp  
Steve Omdal for Tim Van Hofwegen  
Michael Huges for Nels Lagerlund

[Members Absent](#)

Nels Lagerlund	Tim Van Hofwegen
Terry Sapp	Rachael Ward Sparwasser

[Others in Attendance](#)

Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner  
Hal Hart, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)  
Kim Adams, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)  
Don McMoran, WSU Extension  
Craig Macku, Community Member

[Call to Order, Introductions](#)

Michael Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

[Approval of Meeting Summary](#)

Steve Omdal moved to accept the June 9,2021 Meeting Minutes, Justin Hayton seconded. Motion carried.

[Guest Speaker](#)

**Hal Hart, Director-Skagit County Planning & Development Services**

Hal gave a Planning update-

- Long Range
  - Docket
  - SMP (83 comments-some with multiple comments submitted as one packet)
  - Agritourism
  - Fully Contained Community
- City UGA's
  - Are they doing it?
    - To protect AG land we have to use the cities. Sedro Woolley, Burlington, Mount Vernon need apartment complexes
  - Will the cities need to expand UGA's
    - Not at this time
    - Now through 2025 changes are coming
    - 28 acres near Les Swab in Sedro Woolley
      - Zoned Industrial

- 1,000 units-Mixed use Urban Village possible
  - Multiple plans in action
- High Speed Rail
  - Visiting all cities & counties
  - Vancouver to Portland-High Speed Rail through the I-5 Corridor
    - May eat up AG ground
    - This was a part of the Envision 2060 Plan
    - Will come back around-follow up with Policy Questions
- DocketSu
  - Question: what is the timeline?
    - Planning Commission has worked through half of the Docket, up to the PC on how fast it will get done.
- Port Projects
  - Amazon
    - Need to look at traffic flows
    - Fed-ex would use residential routes and not sticking to the truck routes
    - Need to look at an additional entrance for the increased traffic of employees and deliveries
  - Wesland Distillery
    - Will also bring in additional traffic
  - Possibility of an impact/transportation fee
  - Add to Capital Facilities Plan in the future

## New Business

Michael Huges discussed Agency Communication between the County and the Drainage Districts.

- Josh Wilson Road ditches, there was no collaboration
- What is the protocol to contact Drainage District if it impacts the Drainage Districts
  - They should be consulted
  - Didn't know who to contact (excuse of why no contact)
  - Hal Hart & Peter Browning will look into the issue to get communication going
  - Jenna Friebel is on the list to contact with the Drainage District
  - 253 or more projects currently coming in communication is important with Public Works Director
- Steps to better communication:
  - Set pre-development meeting to see if drainage needs to be included at that time
  - Pay more attention that communication starts here
  - What can the County do to make things better?
    - Set protocols
    - Communicate through emails, letters, social media
  - Keet a record to protect the project
  - Check with Public Works they may have other ideas
- WSU Update
  - Budget is due in August- better earnings than expected, hoping to fill empty positions
    - Spanish Coordinator
    - Agrability Coordinator
    - Farm Stress Suicide Coordinator
  - Grants
    - Pasture Management
    - WSU Wise Grant

- Free irrigation evaluation, confidential, good recommendations to work more efficiently
  - Agribility Grant
  - Suicide Prevention Grant- Farm Stress Suicide received a \$100,000 donation and also a Federal donation
- Don has a publication out- five irrigations through fast track
- Upcoming workshops
  - Potato & Berry Workshop

## Committee Reports

### Economic Development- Don McMoran

- Snohomish County- Small Commercial Processer at Mill Creek
  - Looking for a private or person/company to take over
  - Small scale processor 1-100 acre
  - Profile-Freezer, canning, or other processes
- Amazon, Westland
- Solar Farms not allowed on Ag Land, they want to rent land
- Farms- need AG Plan
  - What do we want, individuals/businesses
  - Help solidify the future
  - Survey- please reply to help
- Trans Loading
  - Won't effect the port traffic
  - No impact

### Critical Areas – Nels Lagerlund

Nothing at this time

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

Reach out to Michael if you would like to be a part of the Land Use Committe

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

Comments from earlier.

## Old Business

Next Meeting- VSP Update

## Adjourn

Murray Benjamin moved to adjourn, Justin Hayton seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Next meeting is August 11, 2019 at 7 pm