

**Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
February 13, 2018

**Members in Attendance**

Andrea Xaver   Owen Peth   Jim Glackin   Wendy Pare   Steve Sakuma

**Members Absent**

Scott DeGraw   Mike Hulbert

**Staff and Others in Attendance**

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works

Owen called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

**Meeting Minutes**

Steve moved to approve the 12/12/17 meeting summary; Wendy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Membership Update**

Andrea shared two articles for the group. The first was a Capital Press article on WDFW's \$1.6 million dollar contract with a consultant that leads the department's Wolf Advisory Group. The 12/21/17 article is available online [here](#). The second article is from the 1/29/18 National Geographic and is entitled How China Plans to Feed 1.4 Billion Growing Appetites. Andrea shared a picture from the article showing how high-value crops are being grown in greenhouses next to suburban housing.

Steve shared that the Agricultural Summit is scheduled for Friday, February 16 from 9-5 at the WSU offices, followed by a social.

Kara shared that the County is again posting for assistance for the Farmland Legacy Program and the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

**Miller Amendment**

Kara shared that the County received the USDA's signature page for the Miller Amendment and the document has been recorded. The group discussed the precedent and policy around this amendment; this will be an ongoing discussion topic.

**Property Rankings**

Kara has received a couple of applications and will prepare the ranking packets for the March meeting.

**Property Update/Financial Summary**

The group reviewed the Program's fund balance and a list of properties in the queue. The current applicant list includes 1,317 acres and 29 development rights.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM