

Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
April 10, 2018

Members in Attendance

Scott DeGraw Keith Morrison Steve Sakuma Andrea Xaver
Jim Glackin Owen Peth

Members Absent

Wendy Pare

Staff and Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Member Update

The group discussed tariffs and the effects on agriculture and international trade for the local economy.

The group also discussed drainage concerns in the basin and the agricultural impacts of neglected maintenance. Steve shared that the drainage districts have come together to form a drainage district consortium in an effort to share information and develop a common understanding of the issues that each district faces. The consortium will have staff and representatives from all the drainage districts. Keith shared his background a drainage district commissioner for 30 years.

Owen shared that the Cargill plant was closing. The group also discussed the change in ownership at the Draper facility.

Andrea shared that The Ruckelshaus Center was conducting a 4 hour workshop on planning and growth. The workshop was part of the Ruckelshaus Center's Road Map to Washington's Future project.

Meeting Minutes

Steve moved to approve the 03/13/18 meeting summary; Andrea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Membership Update

Kara noted that Commissioners created a very nice Certificate of Appreciation with a gold seal for Mike Hulbert. The certificate and card that the committee signed was mailed to him. Also, the Resolution appointing Keith was finalized and the Commissioners sent him a welcome letter.

Finally, Kara noted that the Commissioners will be presenting Dr. Keith Wiggers his Certificate of Appreciation on Tuesday, May 29 at 11:15 a.m. in the Commissioner's Hearing Room.

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. Kara also added an additional section to the property update sheet that shows all major expenditures so the group can track those throughout the year, including salaries, contractors, and easement acquisitions.

Kara shared that the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office had money given back from other projects, and that funding was now proposed for FLP#187, right now in the amount of around \$400,000, but that number is expected to grow.

The group discussed marketing and promotional opportunities for the program. Perhaps there's an opportunity to utilize WSU's regional Skagit agriculture distribution list. Kara share that she has a presentation ready to go if there are any events that people hear about.

Jim noticed that the Right to Farm Ordinance was discussed at the last meeting. He mentioned that the guidance for realtors has changed within the past five or so years on what they call the Right to Farm. Kara thought perhaps it was the Natural Resource Lands notification. Jim will share the document with the group

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM