

**Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board
(CFAC)**

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday April 12, 2016

Members Attendance

Mike Hulbert	Wendy Pare	Owen Peth
Keith Wiggers	Andrea Xaver	

Members Absent

Scott DeGraw	Steve Sakuma
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Staff Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Dan Berentson, Skagit County Public Works
Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services

The meeting opened at 7:00 a.m.

Member Update

Andrea distributed an article published March 29, 2016 in the Skagit Valley Herald regarding purchased water rights in the Southwest. Andrea said this should be a wake-up call for Skagit County. Her e-mail to the Board of County Commissioners and the newspaper article is attached and made a part of these meeting minutes.

Agenda Review

Kara added monitoring update to the agenda.

March Meeting Minutes

Andrea moved to approve the March 8, 2016 meeting minutes and Wendy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Monitoring Update

Kara mentioned the monitoring letters will be mailed soon. The letter informs the property owner they can meet with Eric Nelson during the monitoring visit. Properties funded by USDA will be monitored this spring and all others will follow during the summer and early fall.

Pending Property Review

Kara summarized the color-coded pending property spreadsheet. Three easements are in escrow, and the rest are in the signature process. All property owners will have signed their easements in the next few days.

A discussion ensued regarding the Conservation Futures Tax program and how the revenues are calculated and received. Kara will bring a chart to the next meeting showing the revenue amounts for previous years. She may also bring an explanation on how the revenue amounts are calculated each year.

The CFAC discussed the protocol for this committee when they apply for the Farmland Legacy Program. Kara will speak with the Program's attorney to confirm the County's policy.

Ranking

Kara discussed the four pending applications ranked at the last meeting. The CFAC had requested Kara add information to the ranking spreadsheet which will assist with the score discussion. There was also a discussion regarding development right placement strategies.

The ranking scores are based on the original score criteria set by this Program. The core and edge ranking criteria is a tool to make sure all aspects have been considered.

Financials

Kara reported cash and investments on hand for the Program. There is enough money to pay all the pending applications which have been in the hopper for a few years. The newer four applications are still under review.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.