

**Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board**  
**DRAFT Meeting Summary**  
April 13, 2021

**Members in Attendance**

Audrey Gravley      Scott DeGraw      Jim Glackin      Andrea Xaver

**Members Absent**

Owen Peth      Margery Hite      Keith Morrison

**Staff and Others in Attendance**

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works  
Kai Ottesen, Belle Bean Services  
Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland  
Dan Berentson, Skagit County Public Works

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

**Member Update**

The group welcomed Audrey from SPF; she recently retired after 45 years with NWFCFS. SPF is in discussions on sending Audrey to the CFAC meetings formally. Allen and Kara will coordinate to get all the paperwork updated as necessary.

Scott shared some valuation methods from east coast. Jim did some reading on the methods and it appears in that market they have more applicants than funds, which leads to landowners paying for the appraisal and putting in a bid to sell the easement. In that market, the onus is on the property owner. The group discussed how this market is different and that we wouldn't want to put additional barriers up to enrollment.

Kara shared an update on the Agricultural Lands Coordinator position. There were over 25 applicants and they have just recently completed scoring. Interviews will come next.

The group discussed ongoing drainage concerns with respect to agricultural land. When drainage maintenance is neglected, it creates a backwater effect, which then limits the ability to farm.

**February Meeting Summary**

Andrea outlined corrections to the summary:  
page 2 (add the core) and (challenge is that it). Those corrections were made.

Andrea made a motion to approve, Jim seconded, all were in favor.

### **Property Ranking**

The group ranked FLP property no. 228. The property consists of 2-25 acre pieces off of Farm to Market, farmed in combination with, an immediately adjacent to, the old poplar farm property that is already enrolled. The final scores were original (40), core (64), edge (43). Kara shared that the landowner is also implementing the project to the north property with Ducks Unlimited. The project was shared with the group while the landowner was working with the program on that piece of land. Kara noted that he project notice was also shared with Drainage District 16. The group discussed the philosophy of the rankings, why they are needed, and what is driving the process.

### **Marketing/Application Process**

The group reviewed the proof from Lithtex. Some final notes prior to printing:

Andrea would like to see the tractor better

Delete sewer availability under site selection criteria

Change funding availability to valuation

Change 2020 to 2021 and 12,000 acres to 13,000 acres

Phone numbers should be PW main line

### **Property Update/Financial Summary**

Jim shared that the Land Trust recently added 40 acres at the entrance to Samish Island. The group was impressed by the media coverage and seeks to implement that type of marketing. The group discussed the marketing behind the Cook Road property. Allen is having a writer put together a history of this key piece of property. Kara will work with the communications coordinator and the Skagit Valley Herald as well.

The group reviewed the properties in the queue and the financial summary.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 AM