

Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
May 8, 2018

Members in Attendance

Keith Morrison	Steve Sakuma	Andrea Xaver
Jim Glackin	Owen Peth	Wendy Pare

Members Absent

Scott Degraw

Staff and Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Dan McCarty, Skagit County Public Works
Dan Berentson, Skagit County Public Works
Will Honea, Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Kara called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Member Update

Kara shared that she was contacted by Amy Trainer of the Swinomish Tribe about this committee and she may be in attendance. She's the new Policy Analyst for the Swinomish Tribe.

Steve shared that the Drainage District Consortium is taking off, getting the organization fleshed out, and forming as a public LLC. The Consortium has hired an Executive Director, Jenna Freibol, who is exiting a position at WDFW to become the Director. They are separate from Western Washington Agricultural Association but will be working in tandem and the Consortium's office is located next to WWAA.

Jim shared that he attended the Skagit Land Trust's retreat where they discussed a 5-10 year look ahead. They discussed their role and expertise on the landscape and talked about ag lands as they're connected to critical areas, ag land that may not be zoned ag, and their role in forestry. Kara shared that the state Recreation and Conservation Office has a new Forestry account for grants related to protected forestry lands.

Will volunteered that he could present on topics related to agriculture if the group was interested and everyone concurred that would be most appreciated. Andrea reiterated her concern for the County losing the Ag Reserve zoning designation.

Meeting Minutes

Andrea moved to approve the 04/10/18 meeting summary; Steve seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Membership Update

Kara reminded the group 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. She will send out a reminder to the group.

Program Signs

Kara shared that there are five FLP signs in the County's sign database: 2 on Cook and 3 on Gardener. The group reviewed three draft replacement signs. The group preferred the sign with the most color and would like to see a template in the actual size. The group also would like to see the language "Protected" and "Protected Farmland" as opposed to Private Land, Public Legacy. Kara will work with the County's sign shop to get the next draft ready for July's meeting.

Property Ranking

The group ranked an approximately 80 acre piece of farmland, FLP # 208, located near the intersection of Avon Allen Road and Maiben Road. The property received a score of 32.

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 1,447 acres and 30 development rights.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 AM