

Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board
Meeting Summary
June 11, 2019

Members in Attendance

Steve Sakuma	Andrea Xaver	Scott DeGraw	Wendy Pare
Owen Peth	Michael See	Jim Glackin	

Members Absent

Keith Morrison

Staff and Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Tara Naylor, Skagit County Public Works
Mike See, Skagit County Public Works

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Member Update

Andrea shared that the Puget Sound Partnership is bringing back the buffer idea and now they're thinking 300 feet. This would be hardest on small and medium size farms. Andrea has markers on her property that show how wide potential buffers are and how much of an impact buffers would have. In addition, a friend of Andrea's is organizing a local Woodstock concert at Edgewater park on 8/17; Andrea said she would staff a FLP booth there from 1-5.

Steve shared that his drainage district is moving forward on replacing their Joe Leary slough outfall, in partnership with the County's flood relief efforts. This was a good project for the District Consortium; it helped to have one voice to keep progressing.

May Meeting Summary

Wendy Pare moved to approve the 05/14/19 meeting summary; Jim Glackin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

FLP 199 (F2M) Application

Scott met with Jerry of District 25 to discuss the project. Jerry's biggest concern in that area is saltwater intrusion. Owen also met with Jim of District 5 which has done some clay work on their dikes to prevent intrusion. The group discussed the relationship between water table and surface water management and how projects and impacts are specific to each individual property. Steve added that the WSU soils scientists will be able to help the conversation.

The group continued the discussion of the merits of the proposal and outlined a path forward. Ultimately, the group is here to preserve farmland so the committee discussed they wouldn't want to be supportive of anything that may work against farmland, such as a change in land use. The landowner

will ultimately go through a permitting process for the Ducks project but the group is cautious to proceed without the benefit of that process shedding some additional light on the project.

This project appears to be in line with the Program's goals but the group still has significant uncertainties about drainage and potential impacts to the neighboring farmland. The group discussed the need for additional language in the easement for the Ducks project and seeking formal consultation and approval from District 25. Andrea added that we need to maintain transparency to ensure accountability.

For the next meeting, Kara will bring the map of the proposed project and the language of the easement.

FLP Contractors

The group discussed the three interviews of the monitoring agent. All three interviewees were passionate and exceptionally qualified. The top ranked candidate will bring a new level of sophistication to the Program. Kara will work with them on the USDA easements so they are completed in the federal timeline. Tara will work with them on the final contract.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 AM