

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

Members in Attendance

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

Members Absent

None

Staff and Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Dan McCarty, Skagit County Public Works

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Member Update

Andrea shared that WSDOT has a culvert replacement project underway at Highway 9. This is part of the culvert case. The group discussed regulations as they apply to drainage, culverts, and permits. It was noted that Planning is updating a regulation on contacting the Drainage Districts when reviewing developments that outlet into Drainage District ditches.

May Meeting Summary

Andrea moved to approve the 05/8/18 meeting summary; Wendy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Edge Property Discussion

The group discussed an 11 acre property on the edge of West Mount Vernon, between more urban type development and agricultural land. It is not zoned agriculture, contains 1 home, and may have an additional three development rights. The current property owners are marketing the property as developable.

If the development rights were sold, however, this piece of land could serve as a small farm to an entry level farmer. It would take the right landowner, but those seeking to start a small farm would be priced out of the developable property. The group discussed how they could take a systematic, case by case approach to dealing with these types of properties. The landowner or their representative should apply to the program to see if it's a good fit. Andrea brought up that there used to be a zoning designation of agricultural reserve. The group would like to invite SPF to discuss their study of ag activities outside of the Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands zoning as part of an ongoing discussion of edge properties.

Right to Farm Ordinance

Kara shared the County's Right to Farm Ordinance with the group, for a refresher and for everyone's files. This came up in an earlier discussion regarding the NRL disclosure during real estate transactions.

Road 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 two real size sign templates and selected sign reading Protected Farmland. Kara will work with the County's sign shop to get the Cook Road signs installed.

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 9:00 AM