

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

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday July 12, 2016

Members Attendance

Scott DeGraw	Mike Hulbert	Wendy Pare
Owen Peth	Steve Sakuma	Andrea Xaver

Members Absent

Keith Wiggers

Staff Attendance

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m.

Member Update

Wendy spoke about farm plans and her conversation with the Conservation District. The CFAC agreed to continue this discussion during the property update agenda item.

Agenda Review

There were no changes to the agenda.

June Meeting Minutes

The CFAC discussed Owen's farm comment and determined his comment will remain in the minutes. The sentence following his comment will be changed to reflect the groups concern about habitat requirements. "The group has some concerns on habitat requirements tied to conservation easement funding."

Mike moved to approve the June minutes as amended and Steve seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The group is interested in learning about farm plans. Wendy will ask John Schuh, Skagit Conservation District's Small Farm Planning & Technical Program Coordinator, to attend a future meeting.

Property Ranking

Kara discussed each property to be ranked. The group assigned scores and discussed ranking criteria for the two properties on the table today. Steve recused himself from the Sakuma ranking discussion.

Financial Update

Kara summarized the financial/budget spreadsheet showing all properties pending and those ready to close. The easements from the 2014 round will be disbursed in three batches. Payment for the first

batch has disbursed and the County is awaiting reimbursement from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The second batch is ready for disbursement and the third batch is awaiting signature pages from RCO.

Scott calculated there is funding available for future applicants and the program should consider public outreach. Owen said there should be outreach in areas of the county with fewer protected properties. Kara said there are interested applicants and outreach will occur when the Farmland Legacy annual report is published. The County has hired an outreach coordinator who will assist with this report. The report will include a step process on how to apply plus other additional information staff has gathered.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.