

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Members in Attendance

Scott DeGraw, Chair

Owen Peth, Vice-Chair

Keith Wiggers

Andrea Xaver

Steve Sakuma

Staff in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works

Dan Berentson, Skagit County Public Works

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning Department

Open

Meeting opened at 7:00 a.m.

Member Update

Andrea expressed a concern about the Transfer of Development Rights project and that the CFAC should pay close attention while the process continues.

Scott said there is a need for public agriculture education.

Meeting Minutes

Steve moved to approve the July 8, 2014 meeting minutes and Owen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Financials

Kara presented a spreadsheet document that shows what easements are pending and how much USDA & RCO still owe the county. It is expected that USDA and the State Recreation Office will reimburse the county before the end of 2014.

Old Business

Easement Language

Keith mentioned whether the building envelope should or should not be included in the easement. A total impervious surface amount, i.e. square footage, in addition to a percentage should be noted in the easement. Consistency is important and developing procedures and following them will help the program become more consistent.

Signs

Andrea, chair of the Sign Committee suggested that Skagit County and Skagitationians to Preserve Farmland (SPF) should take the lead to produce and install Farmland Legacy (FLP) signs. A few years ago SPF produced a sign design, but the process to manufacture and install was not implemented. Kara met with SPF Executive Director, Allen Rozema, and discussed the sign design. Andrea again suggested that the county and SPF take the lead and the sign committee be eliminated. Andrea moved that the sign committee be decommissioned and Steve seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

FLP Annual Report

Steve Berentson is working on an updated FLP report. The new update will have new photos, stories, and maps.

Application Procedures

Scott said that a start to finish procedure on how to process an application is needed. Additionally, a baseline score should be based on an outcome for objectives needed to be achieved. The final outcome could change depending on funding opportunities and landowner situation.

Keith suggested that the FLP should consider ordering an appraisal whether or not there is federal, grant, or another outside agency that requires appraisals. This keeps all application considerations level and consistent.

Dan recommended that the current step by step application procedure be reviewed by the CFAC. Scott suggested a survey be sent to FLP landowner participants asking them to suggest improvements to the application experience and process. A subcommittee will be formed to work on this task.

New Business

CFAC Member Replacement Strategy

Scott gave an overview was given on how many terms the current members have served and how these terms reflect the language in the Ordinance #O20080006, *An Ordinance Adopting Amendment To Ordinance 16380 For The Conservation Futures Property Tax Fund*. Maximum term limits will be met in the near future for board member representing the Skagit Land Trust (SLT), Skagit Conservation District (SCD), and the At Large member. It was encouraged that SLT and SCD begin the replacement process conversation with their boards. Linda will monitor the expiration dates and update the CFAC as needed.

Skagit County Budget

Dan reported that the 2015 Skagit County Department budget reports are due to the County Finance Department this week. The percentages for county staff and contractors were discussed. These percentages are a starting baseline for the program and can be adjusted as needed during 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 9, 2014.