

Skagit County Conservation Futures Advisory Board
Meeting Summary
September 9, 2025

Members Present | Advisory Rep. Affiliation

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| ☒ Scott DeGraw (chair) District 3 | ☒ Margery Hite Skagit Conservation District |
| ☒ Andrea Xaver (vice chair) District 2 | ☒ Keith Morrison At Large |
| ☒ Jim Glackin Skagit Land Trust | ☐ Owen Peth District 1 |
| ☒ Audrey Gravley Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland | ☒ Sarah Stoner <i>ex officio</i> Skagit County |

Others Present—Affiliation

Jenn Johnson, Skagit County Public Works (partial)
Kai Ottesen, Belle Bean Services, LLC

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:30AM.

Review Agenda

Agenda approved, with one change: Committee Reports will be moved to immediately follow the Meeting Summary Review, to accommodate Margery's earlier departure from today's meeting. Quorum present with minimum of four voting members.

Review June 10 Meeting Summary

The group noted that minutes were not found in the meeting announcement. It was agreed to review minutes at the October meeting.

Committee Reports

Small Heritage Farms Ag Land Protection (CFAB Enrollment Criteria Committee)

Margery presented to the advisory board several informational slides from her presentation earlier this year to the Skagit Conservation District. Included in her overview of Small Heritage Farm protection options were comments from the recent survey gauging interest in protecting small farms. Group discussion followed.

The group continues to compile ideas for what small heritage farm protection models could look like, including possible inclusion of restrictive covenants in the deed, or footnote in the title, voluntary from the owner.

Related to small farms protection models is a Sonoma Magazine article, April 2025: "[Local Pilot Program Offers a New Way to Support Small Farmers in Sonoma County](#)"

Valuation Process Review & Recommendation CFAB Committee)

Scott discussed his understanding of a recent Buy-Protect-Sell farmland protection project in Whatcom County.

Property Updates

The group discussed updates on the properties currently in queue for agricultural conservation easements. The queued applicants encompass 357 acres and 10 development rights.

Marketing & Application Process

FLP 'Protected Farmland' Signs in Key Visible Locations

Sarah shared photos of one of the two recent Protected Farmland signs installed and visible from I-5, as you drive north on I-5 near the Conway interchange.

Application Property Scoring/Review

FLP 261

The group reviewed and scored FLP property #261, comprising of 72 acres and 1 development right east of Hamilton.

The property scored as follows: *Core Criteria 47 Edge Criteria 63*. The property scored highest in Edge Criteria, which emphasizes the protection of farmland subject to higher development pressures.

Monitoring Updates

Kai reported that monitoring work is in process for existing easements, with no issues to report.

Sarah shared that FLP statistics regarding annual easement monitoring:

- 100 easements managed/monitored in 2010.
- 215 easements are managed/monitored in 2025.
- 8,500 acres protected in 2010.
- 15,000 acres are protected in 2025.

Member Updates

Sarah noted a recent ag article in the news:

1. Farmland Legacy Program commemorated (SVH, August 29, 2025). The accompanying photo shows Stoner, Anderson (landowner & SPF board member), DeGraw (CFAB Chair), and Morrison (farmer & SPF board member) standing near the Protected Farmland sign in the Conway area.

Financial Summary

The financial summary is updated for June 2025 and reflects easement properties closed and recorded.

Administrative

CFAB 2025 Meeting Dates

~~July 8 (cnx)~~

~~August 12 (cnx)~~

~~September 9~~

October 14

November 18 (3rd Tues)

December 9

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM