

Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
October 9, 2018

Members in Attendance

Steve Sakuma Andrea Xaver Scott DeGraw
Jim Glackin Owen Peth

Members Absent

Keith Morrison
Wendy Pare

Staff and Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Member Update

Kara shared a new map that the GIS Department created that displays each FLP easement by number. There are some errors to be corrected over time. The group discussed barriers to entry level farming on the landscape and resources to share with beginning farmers. The group also had an overall discussion on the benefits of protecting a critical mass of open space. Andrea encouraged the group to see the new culvert on Highway 9 near Big Lake and the group discussed the need for monitoring effectiveness of such projects.

September Meeting Summary

Andrea moved to approve the 9/11/18 meeting summary; Steve seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Property Ranking

The committed ranked FLP applicant # 210. The property involves the acquisition of one development right and executing a 19 acre easement near the intersection of Downey and La Conner Whitney Roads. The property received a score of 19. During the ranking, the group discussed the Economic Productivity criteria and suggested it needs more variability, such as scores of 0, 3, and 5.

FLP Contractors

The group reviewed the status of the two FLP contractors (appraiser and monitoring agent). Both contracts are set to expire at the end of 2018. Kara will bring a card to the next FLP meeting to send to Eric Nelson as he recovers.

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 1,460 acres and 32 development rights. The group discussed where this program could grow and how to work with other groups on the landscape such as NABC, WSU, EDASC, and SPF.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM