

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

Members in Attendance

Scott DeGraw, Chair Mike Hulbert
Andrea Xaver Carolyn Kelly

Staff in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning Department
Allen Rozema, Skagitionians to Preserve Farmland

Open

Meeting opened at 7:05 a.m.

Member Update

Carolyn said that the Clean Samish Initiative tour with the Governor's office and other agency directors was a success and was well attended.

Meeting Minutes

Andrea moved to approve the September 9, 2014 meeting minutes and Mike seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Financials

Kara gave an update on the county funds available in cash and temporary investments. She also spoke about USDA and RCO grant funds that we expect in the near future from easements that closed in 2012 and 2013.

Kara gave a review of the properties that Kendra Smith, Skagit County FLP contractor, submitted for potential RCO grant funding. Skagit County ranked well.

Monitoring

Kara reported that the 2014 monitoring program is 65% complete.

Old Business

Farmland Legacy Signs

Allen reported that he has prioritized goals for where 10 signs will be posted this year and the size for each. He brought a couple of samples to show the group. There was a discussion about

the FLP signs having the same QR mobile scan feature as the “Talking Field Signs” seen throughout the county. The QR feature is used by Smart Phones.

Application Procedure

Kara reported that she continues to add to her procedure outline as new information is learned. Her outline is best used for the technical side of the program that will be useful for staff. Scott mentioned that a separate layout should be made for the applicant, but a simpler version.

Term Limits

Scott met with Skagit County Commissioner Dahlstedt to discuss CFAC board replacement protocol. The CFAC discussed that it is important if there were to be replacements for long standing members that re-appointments should not be done simultaneously. Long standing board members have valuable knowledge and replacing more than one at a time might cause a hardship. There was discussion that the CFAC ordinance should be amended to clarify or change the term limits for board members. This discussion will continue.

New Business

Cook Road Property

The CFAC discussed a potential applicant that has property near Cook Road. Skagitionians to Preserve Farmland has an interest in this property and is interested in partnering with the Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program (FLP). Carolyn mentioned that the Regional Conservation Partnership Program may also be available as a grantor. The landowners have been encouraged to formally apply to the FLP.

Wetland Mitigation Funds

Allen reported that in the near future credits from Clear Valley Environmental Farm LLC will be sold. This will be a source of funds for the Farmland Legacy Program.

FLP Update to the Board of County Commissioners

Scott said early next year, once the new District 3 county commissioner is in office, staff and a few of the CFAC members will present a FLP update to the Board of County Commissioners.

No Regular November CFAC Meeting

The CFAC will attend a meet and greet with the Skagitionians to Preserve Farmland Board of Directors in November. The next CFAC meeting will be December 9, 7 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.