

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Members in attendance:

Carolyn Kelly, Chair
Alan Merritt
Keith Wiggers

Dave Hedlin
Scott DeGraw

Members not in Attendance

Andrea Xaver, Mike Hulbert

Staff in Attendance:

Kendra Smith, Skagit County
Linda Christensen, Skagit County
Gary Christensen, Skagit County Planning

Open

The meeting was called to order 7:10 a.m.

Meeting Agenda Review

Kendra Smith added the following items to the agenda: 1) Monitoring baseline and reporting; 2) McMurchie property review. Dave Hedling moved and Keith Wiggers seconded to approve adding these two items to the agenda. The motion passed.

Member Update:

Scott DeGraw made note of the high coliform counts reported in a recent Samish River water quality monitoring report.

Carolyn Kelly noted that the Coordinated Resource Management staff is considering having the field tour in the Skagit Valley in the fall of 2011. Many local agency and state legislative representatives attend this tour. Carolyn also reminded the group to mark their calendars for the November 17th Conservation Markets Workshop that will be held in the Skagit County Commissioner hearing room.

Meeting Minutes Approval for October 12, 2010

There was a motion by Keith Wiggers and seconded by Dave Hedlin to approve the October 12, 2010 meeting minutes. With no further discussion and correcting a few typos, the motion passed

Financial Update

Kendra Smith briefly updated the group in regards to the applicants for the 2011 budget year. Scott DeGraw noted that the cash flow sheet should reflect the current cash flow status and the forecast. He will work with County staff to streamline the cash flow spreadsheet within the next couple of weeks. It was moved by Dave Hedlin and seconded by Keith Wiggers that Scott DeGraw work with County staff to clarify and simplify the cash flow spreadsheet. The motion passed.

Old Business

2009 Properties

Kendra Smith updated the CFAC regarding the properties still awaiting USDA closing. There has been some confusion and frustration regarding document and appraisal submittal and requirements. Carolyn Kelly will schedule a meeting between USDA, County staff, and the Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP) to work out the difficulties.

Strategic Planning Project Request for Qualifications Results

Kendra Smith reported that three consultants were selected and interviews held on November 3, 2010. The scores were very competitive and American Farmland Trust was selected. Gary Christensen suggested that a press release be sent out in the near future.

New Business

Baseline Monitoring and Reporting

Kendra Smith distributed a check-off list she received at the 2010 Rally in Connecticut recently. She wanted the CFAC to review the criteria and be made aware that possibly the current monitoring procedures could be expanded. There was discussion regarding the CFAC reviewing the monitoring files as the Conservation District. Gary Christensen suggested the possibility of having this information digitized and available on the Skagit County records website. Kendra mentioned one area of concern regarding property ownership transfers. It is important that each new owner realize the requirements of the conservation easement. Carolyn noted that the Conservation District will notify Kendra immediately of any known property transfers.

Carolyn Kelly, speaking as Chairman of the CFAC, requested that another CFAC member take over as Chair during any baseline monitoring discussion to avoid a conflict of interest because of her position with the Conservation District who performs the monitoring tasks. The CFAC concurred. Carolyn suggested that a monitoring sub-committee be appointed to discuss monitoring issues. Scott DeGraw and Keith Wiggers volunteered to sit on this sub-committee.

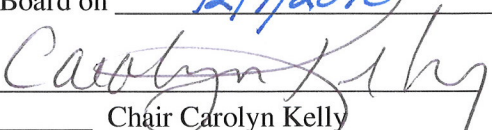
Gary Christensen Update

Gary made a few remarks regarding the Envision Skagit project. Dr. Lang spoke at the Lincoln Theatre on October 27th and there was nearly a full house to hear his presentation regarding how regional growth will shape the Skagit Valley and northern Puget Sound. Additional, the Citizen Committee has met numerous times so far. Gary also noted that the Planning Department's 2010 projects will be wrapping up soon and 2011 budget meetings continue.

There was no executive session

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Submitted by: 
Linda Christensen

Approved by the CFAC Board on 12/7/2010

Chair Carolyn Kelly