

Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Summary
November 14, 2017

Members Attendance

Scott DeGraw	Mike Hulbert	Andrea Xaver
Wendy Pare	Steve Sakuma	Jim Glackin

Members Absent

Owen Peth

Staff and Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Jeff Richardson, Skagit County Public Works
Eric Nelson, FLP Monitoring Contractor

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Member Update

Scott shared that he received positive feedback on the FLP publication at a recent EDASC event. The group expressed gratitude to Bronlea, the Communications Coordinator. The group discussed how the next publication may have more of an overall agricultural land focus, including subjects such as the FLP, the Voluntary Stewardship Program, USDA programs, WSU extension/research, local non-profits, the Agricultural Advisory Board, and Board of County Commission.

Meeting Minutes

Steve moved to approve the 10/10/17 meeting summary; Mike seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Monitoring

Eric gave an update to the group on 2017 monitoring. He's getting the files buttoned up for the year and building files for recently added properties. He did not note any violations but brought up one property that is not actively being farmed; volunteer alders are growing on the property. The group discussed the possibility of meeting with the landowner to review lease options and issues that may arise in terms of critical areas. Eric will finish up this year's monitoring with the East County run.

City of Burlington Ag Heritage Program

The FLP received a second donation this year as a result of the City of Burlington's Ag Heritage Program. This second donation was in the amount of \$7,500 for the purchase of three ag heritage

credits. The number of dwelling units for the parcel under existing zoning was one; the developer purchased three credits, for a total of 4 dwelling units.

Property Discussion

The group discussed a potential FLP applicant off of B.D. Minkler Road.

The group discussed updates to the FLP database, including Conservation Easements and Natural Resource Land Easements, and the various different paths that easements come into the FLP, such as FLP enrollment or the Planning Department's Agricultural Land Preservation code. The database is being updated to better reflect the source of the easement and the conservation values so that information can be more readily extracted through queries.

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 1,180 acres and 28 development rights.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM