

## Skagit County Community Advisory Group on Agritourism Policy

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

10441 Bayview-Edison Road, Mount Vernon, WA

9:00 AM -12:00PM

### Meeting Summary

#### Record of meeting:

Meeting transcription, video recording, and meeting materials are available:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningAndPermit/cag-proposed-agritourism-code-changes.htm>

#### Skagit County Community Advisory Group Members:

Amy Frye, Boldly Grown Farm	Audrey Matheson, Bow Hill Blueberries
Darrin Morrison, Morrison Farms	Jennifer Schuh, Schuh Farms
Matt Steinman, Foothill Farms	Rob Ashby, Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
Kristen Keltz, Skagit Tourism Bureau	Jessie Anderson, Maplehurst Farms
Kai Ottesen, Hedlin's Family Farms	

#### Skagit County Staff:

- Jack Moore, PDS Director
- Tara Satushek, PDS Senior Planner

#### Meeting Facilitator Staff:

- Meg Harris, Lead Project Facilitator, Triangle Associates

#	Action Item	Timeline	Status
	Skagit County		
1	County to coordinate with Skagitonians to recommend materials for review.	May 1st	Done-5/01
2	County to request GIS spatial data on Ag-NRL land and share statistics on acreage of Ag-NRL land and number of parcels by size.	May 1st	Done-5/01
3	Provide the definition of "long term commercial significance" in the context of current Skagit County code and historic zoning.	May 1st	Done-5/01
4	County to provide any additional background/context for considering geography differently, e.g differences in historic zoning decisions.	May 8th	

5	County to consider more permanent representation of agritourism in County process (via Ag Board or another body) beyond the CAG.	End of series	
	CAG Members		
6	Matt Steinman, with support of County, to consider when the appropriate time for an Ag Board update to the CAG will be. <i>Tentatively May 22<sup>th</sup>.</i>		
7	Members to review materials from Skagitonians, specifically around thresholds for accessory uses and allowed/not allowed uses.	May 8th	
	Triangle Associates		
8	Triangle and County to capture Action Items and Decision Points and share them with the group as a Meeting Summary.	May 1st	
9	Triangle and County to draft an agenda for May8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting and circulate to CAG Members	May 1st	

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 8, 9AM-12 PM; Skagit Publishing

**Summary of decision points and key agreements:**

- CAG members asked the County to consider more permanent representation of agrotourism in the County process (via the Ag Board or another body) beyond the citizen advisory group.
- Emphasized the value of defining thresholds between allowed and not allowed uses and different “levels” of accessory uses.
  - There has been previous work completed to identify specific activities that fall under these categories. The group brainstormed, but agreed to come to the next meeting having reviewed materials provided by the County and Skagitonians.
- CAG Overview document is a strong working document. No additional work on this document is needed at this time. However, it can be revisited at any point upon request of CAG members.

## GROUP BRAINSTORM APRIL 24, 2025

### Problem Statements

**What is the problem we are trying to fix?**

**Land not in production does not equal agricultural services**

**Priority- Keep farmland in production**

**Invitation (think-pair-share):** Before we dive into new material, take time for a reflection & grounding in what we covered on 4/10/25:

1. What stayed with you from the last meeting in regard to defining agritourism?
  - Education/exposure
  - Importance of production and maintain services
  - Big “A”, little “t”
  - Recommendations can be interpreted consistently, not open to unintended consequences.
  - Conversation as litmus test for definition
2. What is the biggest challenge/sticking point?
  - Definitions conflicting
  - Unintended consequences
  - RCW Ag Accessory Use
    - (7) activities including (3), (4)
  - Not too open or too tight
  - Plan ahead, forward thinking
3. What is the most important piece for this group to resolve?
  - Establishing thresholds and accessory uses (County)
  - Define thresholds/sideboards
    1. Categorize possible thresholds: footprint, \$ revenue, number of events, soil dependency, number of visitors (per trip or total)
4. What lingering questions do you have?
  - In what ways does definition matter/not matter?
  - GMA /Long-term commercial significance
  - Number of visitors/ trip or total
    - Footprint of venue
    - Revenue
    - Number of events per year
    - Soil dependency
    - Size of events

Wi-Fi

USERNAME: ECV-Guest

PASSWORD: Zh9\$4@+G

(1)

education/exposure  
Import. of production  
& maintain services

"Big A, little t"

recess can be  
interpreted consistently;  
not open to unintended  
consequences

Conversation as  
litmus test for  
definition  
balance

(2)

definitions  
Conflicting

- unintended consequences

RCW Ag Accessory Use  
(1) Activities associated  
with...

(1) activities  
Not only (1), (3) + (4)

- Not too open or too  
tight

- plan AHEAD,  
forward thinking

What is problem we a  
Land not in production ≠

Keep farmland in product  
people connected to food/ services  
not (3) Ag.

establishing  
thresholds + Accessory  
uses (county).

define thresholds  
'guardrails'

categorize possible  
thresholds

Accessory use  
Allowed

In what  
ways does  
matter?

GMA  
long-term C  
SKAGIT?

#vis  
not p  
3 re  
# event  
Soil dat  
size an

Admin  
Special  
use

H  
E  
Spe