

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Members in Attendance

Carolyn Kelly Andrea Xaver Owen Peth
Scott DeGraw Keith Wiggers

Staff in Attendance

Linda Christensen, Skagit County
Dan Berentson, Skagit County
Kendra Smith, Farmland Legacy Program Director
Annette DeVoe, Skagit County Assessor's Department
Kelly Briggs, Skagit County Assessor's Department

Open

Meeting opened at 7:00 AM

Assessor Update

Kelly Briggs and Annette DeVoe briefed the CFAC on how the Farmland Legacy levy tax rate are established each year without going over the maximum rate, 6.25% set by resolution. Kelly explained that the levy amount collected each year is the set percentage, based on a formula set by Washington State RCW plus revenue from new construction and utilities. A handout packet was distributed which explains the formula and other pertinent information about this levy tax.

Clean Water and Clean Samish Initiative Update

Dan Berentson briefed the CFAC on what is currently happening with the Clean Water Initiative and relevant information about the flat tax rate instead of a tax rate based on impervious surface

Member Update

Andrea Xaver spoke about the plastic tubes which protect young trees. During storm events the tubes clog streams near her property.

Scott DeGraw said that Eric Nelson will give a monitoring update at the February meeting. He also said that all property monitoring is current.

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2013

Under the USDA Easements section, Owen Peth said that the phrase “install buffers” should read “implement buffers” and Scott DeGraw said that the phrase “we should not use USDA funding” be changed to “we should consider whether we use USDA funding.” Additionally, Owen Peth confirmed that he seconded the funding source motion. Scott moved to approve the November 12, 2013 meeting minutes as amended and Keith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

December 10, 2013

Andrea made a change to the phrase “water right issue” to be “water rights issue.” She also said that in the mid 1990’s the Ag Reserve zoning was abolished and would like to see it reinstated. Scott moved to approve the December 10, 2013 meeting minutes as amended and Andrea seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Kendra discussed the current cash and budget balances. The cash will increase once grant reimbursement is received. She distributed a cash flow report and mentioned a few different considerations and scenarios. She said the numbers will change once the properties are ranked. Grant funding scenarios will also change the numbers.

RCO funding will be announced in the Spring.

A discussion continued on the ranking and scoring process and how it relates to grant funding. Kendra said that the CFAC will need to work on the ranking in a separate work session and give a thorough review of the USDA agreement.

Kendra asked the group if she should request USDA funding on the two properties not yet included in the previous funding request.

BLA Update

Kendra discussed the specifics of the BLA between property owners Kuipers and Vander Kooy.

Miller Update

Kendra updated the CFAC about future meetings regarding this issue.

Jensen (La Conner) Property Sale

Kendra announced that the Skagit County Planning Department has informed the FLP that a property sale transaction is pending and what that means to the easement.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM