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

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Members in attendance:

Carolyn Kelly, Chair
Andrea Xaver
Alan Merritt

Scott DeGraw
Keith Wiggers
Dave Hedlin

Members not in Attendance

Mike Hulbert

Staff in Attendance:

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

Member Update

Andrea Xaver noted the article printed in the Skagit Valley Herald's June 8th edition regarding installation of signs marking the Agricultural Scenic Corridor expected later this year. Leadership Skagit's Team is asking Skagit County residents to offer art concepts for signs along Interstate 5 that will let motorists know they have just entered an official Agricultural Scenic Corridor. The 10 x 10 foot signs will include a welcome message to visitors and a mural or artwork featuring the valley's scenic values. The CFAC questioned whether they should have an input.

Open:

The meeting was called to order 7:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes Approval for May 2010

There was a motion by Andrea Xaver to approve the April 13, 2010 meeting minutes, seconded by Alan Merritt. The minutes were approved with the following corrections:

1. Andrea Xaver – Page 1 under financial Update change the second paragraph, second sentence to readhow many acres is left regardless of the zoning.

A special side note was made that there needs to be further discussion regarding the conservation language.

Financial Update

Scott DeGraw briefly explained the set up of the budget spreadsheet that he uses in his work and the CFAC gave their input. Staff will work on entering in information for presentation at either of the next two meetings for review.

Old Business

USDA

Kendra Smith reported that the USDA grant contract amendment #2 is currently under the County's signature review process and should be complete in about one week. Grant

contract amendment #3 will be underway after USDA receives the executed amendment #2. Amendment #3 includes all of the properties submitted to USDA in the January 2010 proposal. USDA did not order hazardous mitigation paperwork for the pending properties as they had indicated they were going to at the beginning of the year. Kendra has requested again that they please get on this as soon as possible..

Kendra also noted that the county can not close on USDA properties until USDA has given their ok to authorize to do so. Closing before authorization is received would make the property funding ineligible. Dave Hedlin mentioned that is a good idea to keep our customers informed of the delay when they submit their applications. When dealing with grant funding, the payout could take anywhere from one to two years, Kendra noted. Scott DeGraw mentioned the possibility of bidding for those not involved with grants.

RCO

Yesterday, Monday, June 7th, Kendra Smith and Carolyn Kelley traveled to Olympia to present six properties to the Recreation and Conservation Office for possible grant funding. Feedback will be received and a formal presentation will be conducted in August. Final funding will come from the new state legislative session.

CFAC Policy and Procedure

Carolyn Kelly noted that the CFAC's priority is turning towards funding properties that have grant-match funding. Kendra Smith mentioned that the majority of applicants like to wait for grant funding because the payout is greater with funding vs scoring. Carolyn would like to continue using the present evaluation ranking system and the flexibility of the priority setting with grants that become available. Kendra reminded the CFAC that we have applied for a strategic planning grant that will help the CFAC set priorities and review the scoring system. Grant acknowledgement should arrive mid-June.

The CFAC requested that staff go back on all pending properties to so they can score them.

Conservation Sub-division Update

Carolyn reported that a second meeting was held with the Agricultural and Forestry committees whom are still in opposition. Commissioner Wesen said that the latest news is there are several options being presented and considered by the Planning Commission.

Adjournment

Chair Carolyn Kelly adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

An informal discussion continued as a question and answer forum with the Whatcom County PDR Program Administrator and staff.

Submitted by: Linda Christensen
Linda Christensen

Approved by the CFAC Board on July 13, 2010
Carolyn Kelly
Chair Carolyn Kelly