

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

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

**Members in attendance:**

Carolyn Kelly, Chair  
Andrea Xaver  
Scott DeGraw

Dave Hedlin  
Alan Merritt  
Mike Hulbert

Keith Wiggers

**Staff in Attendance:**

Kendra Smith, Skagit County  
Linda Christensen, Skagit County

**Other Attendees:**

Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland

**Open**

Meeting opened at 7:10 a.m.

The meeting minutes for June 14, 2011 were reviewed. Alan Merritt moved and Andrea Xaver seconded to approve. The motion passed.

**Financial Update**

Kendra Smith gave a NRCS update. The State of Washington awarded a total of five properties, two are in Skagit County. Our program currently has 11 applications, three have matching funds. Two with NRCS and one with Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland. Allen Rozema took a few minutes to discuss the application that will be funded with the county. Information about this new application will be presented at the next CFAC meeting.

Allen discussed the recent meeting in Olympia with Ducks Unlimited presented to NRCS about lining up future funding.

**CFAC policy and procedure discussion:**

Kendra informed the CFAC on the USDA /NRCS selection of properties and discussed what this means as far as FLP funding for current properties. She asked what they would like to do as far as those properties not selected this year by USDA/NRCS and what ranking should now be given. It was noted that the Strategic Plan has not yet been adopted by the BoCC and that it was developed after the CFAC recommendation to approve the Strategic Plan. Keith Wiggers felt the CFAC needs to always justify and keep good records on the methodology of how and why properties are prioritized. Scott DeGraw noted that property reviews and ranking should be done every six months to be sure this program is keeping the county's financial interest in mind. Everyone agreed that the letter of intent needs a legal review. Dave Hedlin mentioned that it is very important to take care of the pending applications and discuss available funding opportunities. He also feels we need to increase the fund raising efforts. Keith noted that the letter of intent should include a

disclaimer that ranking is dependent on available funding. Carolyn said that next month the CFAC will discuss the letter of intent and the new scoring system.

**Motion:**

Scott DeGraw moved and Andrea Xaver seconded that application review dates will be May 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> of any given year. The motion carried.

**Old Business**

Allen Rozema announced that Skagitonians will be purchasing farmland protection signs and will install five to six each year. The county public works department will perform the installation. This week the Wylie sign will be installed. Plans for a ground breaking celebration with The Nature Conservancy, Skagit County, and Skagitonians was discussed as well as a press release.

**New Business**

Nelson Impervious Surface Request

Jerry Nelson, who has numerous easements on various properties, has requested an increase in impervious surface on a current protected property on Field and decrease it on another adjacent protected parcel. Their hope is to keep all of their farm buildings in the same area. Before the CFAC can approve this request they will need a map and easement language for each of the easements in question.

39.1 County Code Discussion

Carolyn Kelly shared a recent realtor property advertisement for a 19.66 acre property near La Conner which has a 39.1 easement. Some of the wording in the advertisement might be misleading. Mike Hulburt felt the discussion should move on to the Agriculture Advisory Board.

Clear Valley Settlement Agreement – ag easement

Allen Rozema remarked that Clear Valley is getting their approvals and they appear to be following an agreement that the Skagitonians have with them as they move forward. Additional covenants will be recorded on a particular 220 acre parcel. Keith Wiggers mentioned that the Skagit Land Trust is working on purchasing this 220 acre parcel.

IRS Tax Code Reminders

Carolyn Kelly reminded the CFAC about the IRS tax code in reference to FLP donations. All donations must be receipted in writing as a charitable gift and that no goods or services were given in return for the donation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Submitted by: Linda Christensen  
Linda Christensen

Approved by the CFAC Board on: 9/13/11  
Carolyn Kelly  
Chair Carolyn Kelly