

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Members in attendance:

Carolyn Kelly, Chair

Andrea Xaver

Keith Wiggers

Scott DeGraw

Alan Merritt

Members not in Attendance

Dave Hedlin, Mike Hulbert

Staff in Attendance:

Kendra Smith, Skagit County

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning

Open

The meeting was called to order 7:10 a.m.

Agenda Update

Kendra Smith added the Grimby easement review and Carolyn Kelly added the Burnett easement review.

Member Update:

Andrea Xaver brought up the water contract currently being considered by the City of Anacortes mentioned in the Skagit Valley Herald this week. There was concern and discussion regarding water usage. Andrea also mentioned 34 million sockeye salmon coming back to the Frasier River which is a favorable report on the ecosystem.

Kendra Smith mentioned the recent Spotted Owl issue and court decision.

Alan Merritt reported that the local apple crop is suffering this year.

Scott DeGraw spoke about the changes in the farm cash deposits from farm workers, which indicates less work available.

Carolyn Kelly reported that the final Ruckelhaus report has not been released, but was due Sept. 1. Carolyn also discussed the Department of Ecology water quality in regards to NRCS standards and specifications.

Meeting Minutes Approval for August 10, 2010

There was a motion by Keith Wiggers and seconded by Andrea Xaver to approve the August 10, 2010 meeting minutes. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

Financial Update

Kendra Smith reported that the county has received USDA reimbursement for the Elde & Kruse I & Kruse II properties. The Wylie property transaction is moving along as well as the Hoffman property.

Old Business

Monitoring

Monitoring will be discussed at the October CFAC meeting. Keith Wiggers desires a policy for property monitoring procedure & standards. He would also like someone who specializes in monitoring to speak at a future CFAC meeting, i.e. Skagit Land Trust or another reputable organization. He also feels strongly that monitoring should be able to hold up in court according to national standards. Kendra Smith suggested that the CFAC go to the Conservation District and familiarize themselves with the information in the monitoring books.

Strategic Planning

Keith Wiggers distributed a handout regarding his thoughts on the strategic planning process. A CFAC member noted that a conflict of interest policy should also be a part of the strategic plan. Kendra Smith gave an update regarding the RFQ that needs to be published by September 30th. Discussion continued regarding the expected consultant hours which are estimated at 75 hours and the money amount allotted in the amount of \$15K. Kendra mentioned there is a possibility of using a portion of the professional services budget if the consultant fee is over the grant budgeted amount. Andrea Xaver noted this strategic plan shall contain the policies and nuts and bolts of this program. Scott DeGraw also noted that the strategic plan needs flexibility.

New Business

Triple J Easement Discussion

Carolyn Kelly discussed background information on the conservation easement. There is a request to build on a portion of Parcel 22141. Upon review the easement, the CFAC determined that Larry Jensen's portion of Triple J does not have any buildable lots. The buildable lots are on Mic Jensen's property in the NW portion of the Triple J easement.

Grimbly Easement Discussion

A proposed new owner is requesting to build a pedestrian bridge on a portion of the property. Kendra Smith reviewed the easement regarding erosion control. The CFAC discussed and agreed that a pedestrian bridge can be allowed as long as the owner demonstrates permit compliance.

Burnett Easement Discussion

Skagit County Public Works has approached the Skagit Conservation District regarding a surface water issue which could bring more water onto the wetland property. Carolyn Kelly noted that wetlands are no longer functional if additional water is dumped which creates a lake situation.

The meeting entered executive session at 8:45 a.m. to discuss the Spitzer/Olson property application. This application was placed in the queue for future funding. The executive session adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Signs

Linda Christensen will check the sign inventory with Skagit County Public Works FLP.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Submitted by: 
Linda Christensen

Approved by the CFAC Board on October 12, 2010


Chair Carolyn Kelly