

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

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

**Members in attendance:**

Carolyn Kelly, Chair  
Andrea Xaver  
Keith Wiggers  
Mike Hulbert

Dave Hedlin  
Alan Merritt  
Scott DeGraw

**Staff in Attendance:**

Kendra Smith, Skagit County  
Linda Christensen, Skagit County

**Open**

The meeting was called to order 7:05 a.m.

**Member Update:**

Kendra Smith announced that USDA has approved all pending property easement documents. She also met recently with Congressman Larson's office, Adam Lemieux, regarding the USDA process and was pleased with the discussion.

**Meeting Minutes Approval for November 9, 2010**

There was a motion by Keith Wiggers and seconded by Dave Hedlin to approve the November 9, 2010 meeting minutes. With no further discussion, other than correcting a couple of minor typos, the motion passed

**Financial Update**

Kendra Smith updated the CFAC regarding the current cash flow considering property purchases and grant reimbursements. Scott DeGraw will work with Kendra to help set up the cash flow spreadsheet.

**Old Business**

**Strategic Plan Project**

Kendra Smith noted that the first meeting with American Farmland Trust will occur on January 11, 2011. Keith Wiggers wants to be sure that Item D of the score sheet criteria is clarified to address when a road separates two properties; one that is protected and one that is being considered.

**New Business**

**2011 Applications**

The CFAC reviewed and scored the 2011 eight applications and discussed submitting these properties for USDA funding.

The CFAC discussed and carried out a motion of ordering appraisals on the eight new applications except the Fir Island Church application which did not rate high enough for the available funds. The applications include: Nolan Lee, Milton Egbers, Mark Erickson, Michael Egbers, Dick VanderKooy, Olson/Spitzer, Weidenbach, and Fir Island Church. The main discussion revolved around if money should be spent for an appraisal now or not. The concern was due to a possible change in the way USDA will rank

applications for matching funds. In the past, it seemed to help to have appraisals done early. This is not clear now. The questions were: 1. Would the properties rank as high (with no appraisal done) as properties that already had appraisals done? 2. What if USDA did approve them for a certain value, then the appraisal came in much higher?

Motion

Dave Hedlin moved that the Farmland Legacy Program go ahead with appraisal orders for the above mentioned except for the Fir Island Church and county staff will tie the request in such a way that The Nature Conservancy and Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland will pay for the properties that they will possibly fund share. Andrea seconded the motion and the motion passed.

There was no executive session

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by:   
Linda Christensen

Approved by the CFAC Board on January 11, 2011

  
Chair Carolyn Kelly