



SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

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Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2012

Crane Conference Room, County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Murray Benjamin

Michael Hughes

Nels Lagerlund, Chair

Bill McMoran

Lyle Wesen

Randy Good

Kraig Knutzen

Greg Lee

Kim Mower, Vice Chair

Nate Youngquist

Others in Attendance

Betsy Stevenson, Skagit County Planning & Development Services

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services

Steve Omdal, District 2 Port of Skagit County Commissioner

Call to Order

Nels called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Consent Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes

Lyle motioned to accept the March 14, 2012 meeting minutes as presented and Murray seconded. The motion passed.

Shoreline Master Plan Project Update by Betsy Stevenson

Betsy gave an overview and update of the of the Shoreline Master Plan project progress. She described the main components of the project. A question and answer period continued among the AAB. Betsy requested support from the AAB after the initial comments are sent to the Department of Ecology regarding public access on private property, specifically dikes. The AAB is ready to comment on this issue.

Committee Reports

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:

Nels Lagerlund (Chair), Kim Mower (Vice Chair), Murray Benjamin, Jim Carstens, Randy Good, Bob Hughes, Kraig Knutzen, Greg Lee, Bill McMoran, Nate Youngquist, Lyle Wesen, Don McMoran, WSU Extension Mike Hulbert.

Economic Development

Bill McMoran attended an Economic Opportunity Growth Team meeting at the Port of Skagit on March 27th. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the thriving agricultural economy in the valley that attracts new business, focuses on value-added products, produces good jobs and supports the agricultural business into the future. The focus is move away from commodity to specialty or value-added products. Future ideas included: develop a brand for the valley ag-tourism, food, open space, North Cascades; develop more value-added rotation crops, i.e. malted barley, dehydrated and pelletized hay, dehydrated potatoes, cool season legume, specialty grains; develop specialty processing and cold storage; and develop a central business attraction for agriculture similar to the Port of Walla Walla, Port of Benton, and Granville Island.

Old Business

Comprehensive Plan Update

There was a brief discussion regarding the James Ritchie, PL11-0239 request to redesignate a 5.5 acre parcel from Ag-NRL to Rural Reserve. The AAB concluded the letter they sent to the Board of County Commissioners last year regarding this redesignation accomplished their request and there is no further comments needed.

Extra Discussion

Ag Summit Presentation – Kim Mower

Kim presented the draft PowerPoint presentation that she has been working on for the May 3rd summit.

Adjourn

The next meeting will occur on May 9th beginning at 7 pm (new spring/summer hours)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board Members:

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