

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Meeting Summary – December 11, 2019

Skagit County Administration Building

Members in Attendance

Michael Hughes Nels Lagerlund Barbara Cleave Tim Van Hofwegen
Justin Hayton Murray Benjamin
Terry Sapp

Proxy Designations

Murray Benjamin proxy for Kraig Knutzen

Members Absent

John Morrison Kraig Knutzen Don McMoran
Steve Omdal Steve Wright

Others in Attendance

Craig Macku, Guest
Hal Hart, Director, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)
Kim Adams, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)

Call to Order, Introductions

Michael Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:01.

Approval of Meeting Summary

Murray Benjamin moved to accept the November 13th, 2019 summary, Barbara Cleave seconded. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker

Craig Macku, joined the meeting in November and again in December expressing concerns about Maddox Creek Covert Replacemnet & Flooding issues.

- Craig owns a small farm in South Mount Vernon and attended a Public Meeting at the Conway Fire Station and after the meeting heard Ken Dahlstedt make a comment about the Maddox Creek Covert Replacement.
- He is also concerned if they develop Little Mountian that the water will flow through Maddox Creek.
- Nels asked Hal Hart, Planning & Development Services Director if he has any info on this with the County, Hal said he would check on it and report back if there is anything to report.
- Michael Hughes & Nels Lagerlund assured Mr. Macku that when something moves forward regarding his concerns that they will have a Public Comment Period and that is when they can submit their comments.

Hal Hart, Director, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)

Hal came and gave an update on when to expect the year end reports:

- January 3rd- 4th Quarter Report
- January 8th- Annual Agricultrual Growth Report
- January 15th- 2nd Half Housing Reort
- January 31st- 2019 Annual Report

The purpose of the reports are to:

- take a look at how it is going trying to drive growth away from Ag Land and addressing Housing needs
- Who is moving in
- What is being built in the community
- How much investing within the County

Hal discussed that he is now on the SWIFT Center Board and advising them with putting Agriculture & Tech together.

Permit Software update

- What kind of stuff do we want to keep in the system to be important with the future?

Ag Tourism-

- Hal will update when they begin moving forward
- Murray Benjamin asked if the Ag Tourism will have a public or commercial base to it? Need to have a good definition on what it will actually be.
- Hal agreed that it will have a public base and will need to be reworked prior to moving forward.
- Terry Sapp can help research for any Ag Tourism that comes up and would like to be part of that Committee.

Fairground Update:

- How does site selection work?
- A lot of sites have been proposed- where in County where everyone can benefit not just some
- Talks of the SWIFT Center, may be too far for most
- Possibly Bayview?
- Parks Department will take lead on this project

Shoreline update:

- Skagit one of the last County's to do first update, now having to do the first and second
- \$68,000 Grant for Shoreline Management Act
- Terry Sapp said there used to be a Community Committee that used to meet but hasn't in a long time
- Hal will check with Michael on a timetable for the updates and report back
- Next year's Docket will be smaller.

Hal will forward King County Article regarding their approval of the Winery & Brewery Ordinance

- Need to make the wine on the property to be called a Winery or Tasting Room
- Nothing Agricultural going on in these Wineries or Tasting Rooms
- All Tasting Rooms are violating trying to get out of paying taxes and nothing is happening

New Business

Tim Van Hofwegen had some questions on how the Ag Board brings stuff to the Board of County Commissioners or the Planning Commission:

- There is ample time to comment within the comment periods
- Someone from Planning attends monthly meetings to provide information on items of interest to the Ag Board
- Keep an eye on the website on the Board of County Commissioners Agenda
- Sign up for the Planning list-serv
- 1st Friday of the month there is a Agriculture Leaders Breakfast at the Farmhouse Restaurant
- You get out what you put in

Michael Hughes gave an update for the next couple of meetings:

- January meeting: Michael Cerbone will attend along with Peter Gill the new Long Range Planning Manager to give an update on Stormwater
- February Meeting: Kara Symonds will attend for an update on Dam Relicensing
- Michael Hughes will reach out to Brandon Roozen and see if he can give an update regarding the Department of Ecology.

End of year Chair/Vice Chair Nominations:

Chair: Murry Benjamin Nominated Michael Hughes, Nels Closed, Motion Passed

Vice Chair: Murray Benjamin Nominated Nels Lagerlund, Justin closed, Motion Passed

There is still a vacancy for District 2- Michael Hughes will reach out to Mike Elde to seek interest in filling, if not, need to post for applicants. Kim Adams will follow up with Ken Dahlstad prior to posting.

Committee Reports

Economic Development- Don McMoran

Nothing at this time

Critical Areas – Nels Lagerlund

Director of the Department of Ecology is retiring. There was discussion on what Brandon Roozen presented on previously. There has now been a map put out of watersheds with hot water in the salmon streams. It shows East of I-5 all the way to Nookachaps. The tribes are not happy- focused on all the cleaning and neglected the water temp. They are pushing on the Department of Ecology to do something. The Director said she wouldn't let anything happen and now with her retiring, they don't know what will happen next.

Land Use –Barbara Cleave (Chair), Michael Hughes, John Morrison, Steve Wright

Nothing at this time

Flood, Drainage & Irrigation – Kraig Knutzen (Chair), Nels Lagerlund, Steve Wright

Nothing at this time

Old Business

Nothing at this time

Adjourn

Murray Benjamin moved to adjourn, Nels Lagerlund seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm

Next meeting is January 8, 2020 at 6 pm.