

# Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

## Meeting Summary – October 11, 2023

### Commissioners Hearing Room/MS Teams

#### Members in Attendance

Michael Hughes	Terry Sapp	Michael Trafton	Nels Lagerlund
Murray Benjamin	Steve Wright	Justin Hayton	John Morrison
Kraig Knutzen	Steve Skrinde		

#### Proxy Designations

Kraig Knutzen Proxy for Steve Omdal

#### Members Absent

None

#### Others in Attendance

Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner  
Jack Moore, Director Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)  
Don McMoran, WSU Extension  
Members of the Public: Linnea McCord, Suzanne Rohner, & Amy Frye

#### Call to Order, Introductions

Michael Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:00.

#### Approval of Meeting Summary

Kraig Knutzen moved to accept the September Meeting Minutes, Justin Hayton seconded, Motion carried.

#### Guest Speaker

##### **Jack Moore, Director, Skagit County Planning & Development Services**

Jack gave an update on the Planning Commission Meeting regarding Agritourism

- Staff summarized Agritourism comments to PC
- Answered questions
- Summarized the alternative code proposed by other groups
- PC will have discussion on comments likely in December

Notes of importance from Terry:

- 23 parties commented favorably to the proposed code changes
- 1300 total comments, many from out of County, some from out of State
- Code enforcement behind county wide on a variety of infractions.
  - 250 outstanding code enforcement actions on file in County

How the proposed code moves forward:

- If PC recommendation is similar to proposed, it goes to County Commissioners
- If substantial changes are made, back to public process (SEPA, Comments, etc.)
- Decided by Planning Staff

Discussion on how Snohomish County manages Agritourism operations

- Checklist to ensure parking, sanitation, access to roads, building codes, etc.

## **Presentation of memo from Jason Quigley, Skagit County Public Works: Bayview Ridge Stormwater Management Plan**

- Applied for grant to update Stormwater plan
- Expand Basin to include No-name Slough, Big Indian Slough and the Ag lands
- Discussion of vacant position 3, Recommended Griffin Berger, Apple Orchard by Don McMoran. Will reach out to test the water

## **Committee Reports**

**Land Use** – *Terry Sapp (Chair), Kraig Knutzen, Murray Benjamin, Michael Trafton, Steve Omdal*

Nothing at this time.

## **Economic Development-** *Don McMoran*

- Island Grown Cooperative – Kill floor being installed
- No info on Skagit Valley Malting
- Ag Park in design phase – WSU extension will likely be housed there

## **Critical Areas** – *Nels Lagerlund*

VSP funding, recommended inviting Rebecca Rising to next meeting, VSP Coordinator.

Commissioner Browning:

- Thinks county is close on flood water storage at dams
- Thanked AAB for starting the process on Agritourism
  - Stressed the County must establish what is legally acceptable before we start talking about activities
  - County needs to create permitting process and enforcement mechanisms for any activities

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

FERC meeting October 17

## **New Business**

### **Don McMoran WSU Update**

- Budget to Skagit County Submitted
- WSU CAHNRS enrollment way up, record level
- Skagit County Extension office fully staffed
- Planning Workshops
  - Jan 12 Seed
  - Feb 9 Ag Summit
  - Feb 23 Potato
  - March 8 Berries

**Next Meeting:** November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

## **Adjourn**

Nels Lagerlund moved to adjourn; Justin Hayton seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.