

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Meeting Summary – February 8, 2024

Commissioners Hearing Room/MS Teams

Members in Attendance

Kraig Knutzen
Steve Omdal

Terry Sapp
John Morrison

Michael Trafton
Steve Skrine

Nels Lagerlund
Steve Wright

Proxy Designations

None

Members Absent

Michael Hughes

Justin Hayton

Others in Attendance

Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner

Jack Moore, Director Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)

Kim Adams, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)

Don McMoran, WSU Extension

Jenna Friebel, Drainage Consortium

Amy Frye, Community Member

Call to Order, Introductions

Kraig Knutzen called the meeting to order at 6:01.

Approval of Meeting Summary

Nels Lagerlund moved to accept the February Meeting Minutes, John Morrison seconded, motion carried.

Guest Speaker

Jenna Friebel, Executive Director, Skagit County Drainage & Irrigation Districts Consortium

Jenna gave a few updates regarding Seattle City Light, Water Task Force and Duke 2 Study, as well as working with multiple agencies on a Grant for a Natural Resource Plan.

- Seattle City Light
 - Ross provides flood storage, working on getting things finalized.
 - Earlier date to start storing from December to November 1st
 - Full Storage before Flood Season
 - 140,000 ft acre storage is an increase of what Baker Lake does now
 - Not official as of yet, will start presenting in March to Sedro Woolley, Burlington, Anacortes, Mount Vernon, County Commissioners, and the Skagit PUD
 - Question: Will this help with Irrigation in the future?
- Water Task Force Duke 2 Study
 - This study will be completed this summer
 - Will work with the task force to prepare for the Legislative Session
 - Tentative deal for District 15 which is West Mount Vernon & Fir Island. PUD to remove some of the tidal conditions

- Seasonal Drought transfer negotiations are ongoing. March 12th will be a public discussion. Hope to be approved then will go to DOE for final approval. June 1st it will go into effect if approved. This is for District 15 & 22 (and PUD)
- Volume may still be insufficient. This will be a four-year deal to hopefully keep the pressure off.
- Come to the Meeting on March 12th at 4:30 at the PUD Office
- Tide Gate Fish
 - Have been without permits for repairs since 2001.
 - 2010 Tide Gates in place
 - Worked on getting a budget and received \$350,000 to hire a mediator to deal with the lawsuit and get permits to make repairs. The Mediator is starting in March.
 - Also working with the County on a Grant for a Natural Resource Plan for Skagit.
 - County, Upper Skagit, DFW, DOE will all come together to get the grant.
 - A letter of intent is to be sent out in March
- Jenna will come back in Spring for an update on these projects.

Committee Reports

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

Nothing at this time

Economic Development- *Don McMoran*

- No movement at the Amazon Facility still.
- Skagit Horticulture filed for Bankruptcy
- Another Dairy Farm has relocated to Eastern Washington. That leaves only ten Dairy Farms left in Skagit.
- Island Grown Kill Plat had a cattle trailer at the plant. They may be open for business with the new kill plant.
- Ag-Uni, air dome greenhouses are coming to Washington. May be located in Snohomish County.

Critical Areas – *Nels Lagerlund*

Nothing at this time.

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

Nothing at this time.

Old Business

New Business

Jack Moore, Director Planning & Development Services

Jack gave a Comp Plan Update

- Tomorrow is the kickoff meeting with Public Works, Health, Emergency Management, & PDS to discuss what is needed and laying the groundwork for the upcoming Comp Plan Update.
- Planning has a grant for multiple consultants to work on this project with us
- Climate Resiliency will need to be added to all comp plans
- They are asking for a more accurate breakdown on housing
- Rural Areas may get a pass on lower income housing
- ADU's may be more in Urban areas
- Currently working with SCOG on more regional planning
- They have put together a draft Public Participation Plan together and will be doing heavy outreach this summer, the AAB will be included.

- Suggestion to have a committee take on the topic of Comp Plan Update and meet more regularly than update the Board at the monthly meeting.
- Robby Eckroth will join the AAB Meeting next month and have more information to share.

Don McMoran WSU Update

- Ag Summit had a great turn out and the Seed workshop is done
- Potato Workshop coming up on Saturday
- Berry Workshop March 10th
- Finally, fully staffed at WSU Extension
- 0, 3, 5, & 10% Budget Cuts coming

Next Meeting: Robby Eckroth to join meeting to discuss the Comp Plan Update with new information.

[Adjourn](#)

Nels Lagerlund moved to adjourn; Michael Trafton seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Next meeting is March 13, 2023, at 6 pm.