

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Meeting Summary – March 13, 2024

Commissioners Hearing Room/MS Teams

Members in Attendance

Michael Hughes	Michael Trafton	Terry Sapp	Steve Wright	John Morrison
Nels Lagerlund	Kraig Knutsen	Steve Skrinde	Justin Hayton	Don McMoran

Proxy Designations

Steve Omdal (proxy Michael Hughes)

Others in Attendance

Robby Eckroth, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)
Jack Moore, Director Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)
Tara Satushek, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)
Madeline McGonagle, Community Member
Quinn Estep, Community Member
Emma Estep, Community Member
Kara Rowe
Mikala Staples Hughes

Call to Order, Introductions

Michael Huges called the meeting to order at 6:05.

Approval of Meeting Summary

Kraig Knutzen moved to accept the March 2024 Meeting Minutes, Michael Trafton seconded, motion carried.

Guest Speaker

Robby Eckroth- Skagit County Planning and Development (PDS)

- Introduced the AAB to the Comprehensive Plan 2025, will be a major overhaul of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Includes a Greenhouse Gas sub-element for Washington's largest 11 counties (Skagit is #11)
- Designed to make the county more resilient to climate hazards
- Reduce impacts to county assets
- Reduce vehicle miles driven (5 years after adoption)
 - Skagit Transit
 - Pedestrian infrastructure
- Washington State has provided guidelines
- Agriculture has a subsection (Economic Development Committee will review the guidelines to see how they will impact Skagit and be implemented)
- Cascadia- Consultants for GHG emissions section
- Affordable Housing Section
 - Likely be more important to cities than county

There will be open houses in June to provide for community input on the Comp Plan 2025.

Committee Reports

Economic Development

PUD still in works for transferring water to irrigation districts (3000ac/ft non-interruptible)
IGFC kill floor installed and running, struggling with staffing to keep it fully operational.

Critical Areas

The Governors office has \$824,000 in the budget for riparian actions and implementation proposals.

Land Use

Agritourism Moratorium was discussed to bring the whole AAB up to date on the movement at the Commissioner's level.

- Planning Department directed to introduce an AOI
- This will outline the process existing operations outside current code rules can document their operations
- Create a Voluntary Compliance Agreement
 - Violation acknowledged and County and Operator agree to limits
 - Will limit expansion in the future
- Process to document current use
- The permanent ruled from the Planning Commission is still on the table after everything is worked through

Flood and Drainage

Nothing to Report at this time.

WSU update

Budget submitted to County in the June-August timeframe.

Looking to hire a Marketing Specialist.

September 2025 is target to move the office.

Tractor safety will be in May due to traveling conflicts. Will be capped at 30 due to lost of interest.

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn

Michael Trafton moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.