

Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Meeting Summary – April 10, 2024

Commissioners Hearing Room/MS Teams

Members in Attendance

Michael Hughes Michael Trafton Terry Sapp Steve Wright John Morrison
Kraig Knutsen Steve Omdal Justin Hayton Don McMoran

Proxy Designations

Nels Lagerlund (proxy Steve Wright) John Morrison (proxy by Kraig Knutzen)

Members Absent

Steve Skrinde

Others in Attendance

Jack Moore, Director Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)
Chris Steele, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)
Emma Estep, Community Member
Kara Rowe, Western Washington Agriculture Association

Call to Order, Introductions

Michael Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:07.

Approval of Meeting Summary

Terry Sapp moved to approve the April 2024 meeting minutes, Justin Hayton seconded, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Economic Development - *Don McMoran (Chair), Steve Omdal, Terry Sapp*

Discussion of the Comp Plan 2025 update

- RCW 36.70A.070
 - Opts in the 11 largest counties for GHG reductions
 - 1st 4 counties to update: Clark, Thurston, Whatcom, Skagit
- Reduction of GHG emissions is the goal

Critical Areas – *Nels Lagerlund*

Nothing at this time

Land Use - *Terry Sapp (Chair)*

Discussion of Agritourism

- Tulip Festival: county is trying to determine how events during the Tulip festival would impact the number of non-agricultural events per year
- The proposal from Planning Commission could be changed in minor ways by County Commissioners, determined by Staff if public comment would be needed
Concerns from the AAB by allowing Non-Conforming uses in AG-NRL
- Already have many non-conforming uses in Ag-NRL
- Are we opening up an avenue to get these allowed
- Destruction of Zoning by allowing activities of limited relevance
- Can the County get revenue from Non-Conforming businesses to help future enforcement? Limited resources are what allows activities to spread.

- How do we prevent this from repeating

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

Irrigation districts are close to an agreement with PUD for Skagit River Water for irrigation
FERC- flood storage agreement is on a positive trend

WSU update

Old Business

New Business

2024 Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Browing update

- County is starting Comp Plan conversations with the community
- County is having conversations with Swinomish about delta plans
- County is having good interactions with Upper Skagit

Adjourn

Justin Hayton moved to adjourn; Steve Omdal seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:44p.m.