

# Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Meeting Summary –August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Commissioners Hearing Room/MS Teams

## Members in Attendance

Michael Hughes	Terry Sapp	Steve Wright	John Morrison
Kraig Knutsen	Kim Mower	Don McMoran	Nels Lagerlund
Cindy Kleinhuizen	Justin Hayton		

## Proxy Designations

Michael Hughes for Steve Omdal

Justin Hayton for Steve Skrinde

Steve Wright for John Morrison

## Others in Attendance

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

Malia Agpawa, Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)

Sarah Stoner, Skagit County Public Works (PW)

Emma Estep, Community member

## Call to Order, Introductions

Michael Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

## Approval of Meetings Summary

Nels Lagerlund moved to approve the July minutes, Justin Hayton seconded, motion carried.

## Guest Speaker

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

Jack gave an overview of the Solar and Battery systems project that is proposed to be placed on property that is in Skagit County within the Agricultural Natural Resource land. He explained that the proposed Battery Systems are a part of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC), also referred to as the Goldeneye project and has the full supported of State legislatures. Jack also discussed the potential of a balanced technical advisory group to review this project.

- Provided information on the proposed Goldeneye EFSEC project
- Mentioned forming a technical advisory group or committee
- Answered the boards questions regarding the Goldeneye project

### **Michael Hughes, Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Board**

Michael spoke shortly about the EFSEC project and how this project will affect the tax rates for the community. Michael mentioned that there is a possibility of the state legislator implementing a fixed tax rate.

- Michael informed the group that the tax rates would go up, but the cost would be spread out over the years to follow
- Although the tax rates would raise, there is a possibility that the state could execute a fixed tax rate, in the next 3-5 years

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

Jack gave an update on Agitourism and the 2025 proposed comprehensive plan. Regarding rural and natural resource sections, the revisions are mostly clarifying the verbiage of the text. He also elaborated on the fact that the comprehensive plan will be consistent with codes/laws.

- Gave an overview of the 2025 comprehensive plan for rural and natural resource lands
- Re-assured board that the 2025 plan is set to be consistent with the current codes and laws in place

### **Michael Hughes, Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Board**

Michael and most of the board members agreed that the current codes have served agricultural land well. A letter of recognition is under review to be sent to the planning team, regarding the 2025 comprehensive plan.

## **Committee Reports**

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

- Skagit Malting is under new ownership

**Critical Areas** – *Nels Lagerlund (Chair), Murray Benjamin, John Morrison*

Nothing at this time

**Land Use** – *Terry Sapp (Chair), Cindy Kleinhuizen, Kraig Knutzen, Steve Omdal, Michael Trafton, & Don McMoran*

Nothing at this time

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

Nothing at this time

**WSU Update** – *Don McMoran*

- Went from an Admin 4 position to an Admin 2 position. This will cover raises for the other employees
- 2.5% Cut on retirees
- Purchased a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado EV

[Adjourn](#)

Terry Sapp moved to adjourn; Kim Mower seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Next meeting is September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7pm.