

# Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Meeting Summary – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Commissioners Hearing Room/MS Teams

## Members in Attendance

Michael Hughes	Michael Trafton	Terry Sapp	Steve Wright
John Morrison	Steve Omdal	Kim Mower	Don McMoran
Cindy Kleinhuizen	Justin Hayton	Steve Skrinde	Nels Lagerlund

## Others in Attendance

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

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

Commissioner Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner

Annie Lhoman, Community Member

## Call to Order, Introductions

Michael Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

## Approval of Meetings Summary

Terry Sapp moved to approve the July minutes, Nels Lagerlund seconded, motion carried.

## Guest Speaker

### **Terry Sapp, District 3 appointment, Agricultural Advisory Board**

Terry presented his extensive background research on the proposed 2025 Comprehensive Plan, specifically on Agricultural and Forest Natural Resource Lands. Terry also suggested a few minor changes to the 2025 plan.

- Skagit County Code
  - Terry found that some of the Skagit County Code was adopted from the Washington State Code, meaning that this was not our original language.

- Section 4A-1.1
  - Terry thought that the initial interpretation of this section would negatively affect agricultural land due to de-designating certain zones (Including Ag, Ag NRL, Forest NRL, etc.)
  - In Section 4A-3.1, long term de-designation is explained. The plan says, “Designation of Agricultural Lands is intended to be long-term. De-designation is discouraged but may be considered...”
- Section 4A-2.13
  - This section focuses on education programs in schools, Terry observed that there wasn’t anything in this section about Agriculture education in adults

### **Annie Lhomman, Community member**

Annie perceived the comprehensive plan to be supportive of agriculture, while using our own language.

- Annie strongly feels that the comprehensive plan be kept the way it is. She believes there’s good, original language used and should be kept in, to continue preserving land in Skagit County

### **Old Business**

Letter was sent to the Planning and Development Department acknowledging the support for Agricultural lands in the 2025 comprehensive plan update.

### **New Business**

The group agreed to send a letter to discourage energy storage facilities on agricultural natural resource lands in Skagit County.

- Kim Mower motioned to send the letter, Nels Lagerlund seconded, motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

- a. **Economic Development-** Don McMoran (Chair), Murray Benjamin, John Morrison

Nothing at this time.

- b. **Critical Areas-** Nels Lagerlund (Chair), Murray Benjamin, John Morrison

Nothing at this time.

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

Commissioner Browning provided an adopted, interim ordinance temporarily prohibiting the acceptance of new permits for event venues on Skagit County agricultural land.

- d. **Flood, Drainage, and Irrigation-** Kraig Knutzen (Chair), Nels Lagerlund, & Steve Wright

Nothing at this time.

- e. **WSU Update-** Don McMoran

Don mentioned to the group that, Global Green is a pickle producing company based out of India. Recently, this company has been looking to buy land, grow, and produce pickles in Skagit County.

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Don will be hosting an event – *Pizza For The Producers* from 5-8pm. This will be held at Don's Office at the Port.

## Adjourn

Terry Sapp moved to adjourn; Michael Hughes seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.

Next meeting is October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6pm.