

# Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Meeting Summary – October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Commissioners Hearing Room/MS Teams

## Members in Attendance

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

## Others in Attendance

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

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

Will Honea, Skagit County Prosecutors Office Attorney

Rebecca Rising, VSP Program, Skagit County Public Works

Amy Fry, Community Member

## Call to Order, Introductions

Michael Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

## Approval of Meetings Summary

Kim Mower moved to approve the July minutes, Steve Wright seconded, motion carried.

## Guest Speaker

### **Rebecca Rising, VSP Coordinator, Skagit County Public Works**

Rebecca gave the board an update on the VSP Program (Voluntary Stewardship Program). She explained where the funding has been going and where it is proposed to go in the future. Rebecca also gave the group an overview of the everyday tasks associated with this program.

- The VSP Program was started in 2011, focusing on fish and wildlife and riparian buffers in the county.

- About 1 year ago VSP received 1 million dollars to spend on conservation practices.
- There are multiple programs associated with VSP, including the Water Quality Monitoring Program. This allows us to test and monitor streams in Skagit County to see what lies ahead.

### **Will Honea, Skagit County Prosecutors Office Attorney**

Will gave the group a presentation about the recent FOSV vs. King County Ruling. Will brought this to the group’s attention because of the weakness recently found, in King County’s code. This weakness allows “accessory” uses, such as wine tasting on agricultural land.

- The thought is to reflect on this ruling and develop our county’s code and possibly a new ordinance.
- The purpose of Agricultural Natural Resource land is to provide land for continued farming activities. Non-agricultural uses are allowed only as accessory uses to the primary use of the land for agricultural purposes. Skagit County Code 14.26.400
- It’s important to note that what we allow on ag land now, will affect the future outcomes of farmland in Skagit County.

### **Old Business**

The board briefly reviewed the 2025 Comprehensive plan, Transportation and Capital Facilities, and found at this time, the plan has little to no impact on agricultural land.

### **Committee Reports**

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

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Global Green will be doing a field trial through Don McMoran (WSU), to see if their product can develop in Washington soils.

- 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.

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

Nothing at this time.

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

Don spoke briefly about a new WSU building being built with the support of the Port. More information to come soon.

### Adjourn

Kraig Knutzen moved to adjourn; Kim Mower seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Next meeting is November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6pm.