

# Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board

Meeting Summary – January 10, 2024

Commissioners Hearing Room/MS Teams

## Members in Attendance

Michael Hughes                      Terry Sapp                      Nels Lagerlund  
Steve Omdal                              Kraig Knutzen                      Justin Hayton

## Proxy Designations

Terry Sapp for Murray Benjamin

## Members Absent

John Morrison                      Steve Skrinde                      Steve Wright

## Others in Attendance

Jack Moore, Director Skagit County Planning & Development Services (PDS)  
Don McMoran, WSU Extension

## Call to Order, Introductions

Michael Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:08.

## Approval of Meeting Summary

Terry Sapp moved to accept the December 2023 Meeting Minutes, Kraig Knutzen seconded, Motion carried.

## Planning Director Update

County Commissioners have not put the Agritourism update from the Planning Commission on their schedule. Unsure if they have a timetable for doing so.

## Old Business

- Chair Hughes presented a rough draft letter to Board of a letter to the County Commissioners in support and giving background of the Agritourism proposal.
- Kraig Knutzen made a motion to send the letter presented to the County Commissioners, Seconded by Nels Lagerlund
- Terry Sapp spoke in support of presenting the letter
- Discussion of edits to letter
- Unanimous support of the edits, to be made by Chair Hughes and resent to Board for verification with a submittal date to County Commissioners by Jan 31, 2024.
- Motion to present letter as edited passed unanimously by board.
  
- Discussion of Statewide Agricultural protections:
  - GMA states non-ag accessory use are limited to existing facilities and 1 acre total.
  
- Discussion of AAB members providing letters to the editor:
  - Cannot imply speaking for the Board including stating being on the board. May speak only for oneself.

## Committee Reports

**Land Use** – *Terry Sapp (Chair), Kraig Knutzen, Murray Benjamin, Michael Trafton, Steve Omdal*

Nothing at this time

### **Economic Development-** *Don McMoran*

- Ag land on Whitmarsh road conversion to Car parking lot complete
- Skagit Valley Malting working to resume small scale operations
- Island Grown Cooperative kill plant finished
- Ag Park at port potential completion Sept 2025

### **Critical Areas** – *Nels Lagerlund*

SB 1692 Corporations responsible for carbon emissions, will trickle down to suppliers to share with them.

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

Samish River breached dikes, unknown how long or severity at this time

## New Business

### **Don McMoran WSU Update**

- 10% County budget cut
- Looking to create an endowed chair for forestry in Skagit County
  - Will be part of a proposal made Jan 29
- WSU funds still tied up related to the athletics reorganizations
- Facilities- making do with facilities and vehicles currently in possession
- Workshops: Jan 12 Seed Workshop, Feb 9 Ag Summit, Feb 23 Potato Workshop, March (I missed the date) Berry workshop
- Looking to add 2 Spanish translators

**Next Meeting:** February 21, 2024

## Adjourn

Nels Lagerlund moved to adjourn; Justin Hayton seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.