

**Skagit County Conservation Futures Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Summary**  
January 13, 2026

**Members Present | Advisory Rep. Affiliation**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott DeGraw (chair)   District 3       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margery Hite   Skagit Conservation District    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Xaver (vice chair)   District 2  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keith Morrison   At Large                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Glackin   Skagit Land Trust         | <input type="checkbox"/> Owen Peth   District 1                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audrey Gravley   Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Stoner   <i>ex officio</i> Skagit County |

**Others Present—Affiliation**

Jenn Johnson, Skagit County Public Works

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:33AM.

**Review Agenda**

Agenda approved. Quorum present with minimum of four voting members.

**Review December 9 Meeting Summaries**

Jim made a motion to approve minutes; Audrey seconded. All in favor.

**Property Updates**

The group discussed updates on the properties currently in queue for agricultural conservation easements. The queued applicants encompass 150 acres and 3 development rights.

Sarah provided a review of 2025 properties protected.

**Marketing & Application Process**

**Year in Review: FLP Accomplishments**

Sarah shared a recap of 2025's main projects and accomplishments for the program.

**Monitoring Updates**

The group discussed general monitoring issues, including accrual of abandoned vehicles on one FLP easement. The new software for easement management continues to be pending approval, still pending County IT review of security and GIS mapping file issues.

**Succession & Land Access Grant**

The group discussed the second of three winter workshop series on farmland succession, scheduled for this Wednesday.

Sarah prepared a press release on the succession workshop series distributed January 16, 2026, to 10,200 subscribers: [Skagit County Farmland Legacy Hosts Community Workshops on Succession Planning.](#)

Each workshop has a maximum registration of 50. The January workshop has 40 currently registered plus ~7 admin/presenters, such as the panelists, Sarah, and Lora Claus of Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland who's the designated host for the January session. The host opens with a five-minute welcome which includes how succession relates to the host organization's mission.

Don McMoran, WSU Extension Director, will present an overview of succession and share some of his family succession story.

Sarah shared the promotional text for "Your Farm's Future: Three Winter Workshops for Mid & Late Career Farmers," as follows:

*In collaboration with Skagit County Farmland Legacy, Western Washington Agricultural Association, WSU Extension, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, and The Skagit Farm Bureau – please join us at these important workshops for our Skagit farming community.*

*You are not alone in this challenging work.*

**YOUR FARM'S FUTURE  
THREE WINTER WORKSHOPS FOR MID & LATE CAREER FARMERS**

**Join us for a series of workshops designed to help mid and late career farmers shape a successful future for their farms.**

*As an owner of Skagit farmland, you care about your property and what happens to it. You might need help with its transition to future owners.*

*Have you discussed the future of your land with your loved ones?*

*Could you use help knowing where to start, or figuring out your next step?*

Join us and gain valuable insights and tools with **Your Farm's Future: 3 Winter Workshops** for mid-career and late-career farmers and farmland owners.

**Attend one, two or all three.**

**Wednesday, December 3, 2025 :: Understanding the Journey ::**

Hear from a panel of Skagit farmers about their personal journeys through the farm succession process.

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026 :: Planning the Transition ::**

Get an overview of the big picture process, clarify key decisions, and meet your local network of succession planners, advisers, and resources.

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026 :: Taking the Next Step::**

Secure your future and move your personal succession process forward with practical tools, resources, and opportunities for one-on-one conversations.

Each session includes a Q&A period following the panel & meal-time networking.

Dinner provided.

4 PM – 7 PM. O'Donnell's Farmhouse Inn.

**Member Updates**

Jim discussed the joint County-Skagit Land Trust project on Big Rock, working together on access for a city park.

Margery shared a summary of what she’s seeing in the [statute code](#) that addresses [taxation of open space](#) and [farmland](#).

Sarah shared the 2025 Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program report, tracking the activity of farmland protection programs across the U.S. The report is provided by the American Farmland Trust’s Farmland Information Center.

The 2025 [Status of State PACE Programs](#) table summarizes information about PACE programs in the 31 states where they have been funded. Included is a list of top 10 states for 2024 farmland protection. Washington state ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the report.

**Top States by Acres Protected during 2024**

STATE	ACRES PROTECTED
California	55,839
Florida	41,326
Maryland	16,693
Pennsylvania	13,847
New York	9,925
Virginia	7,335
Washington	6,567
South Carolina	4,592
Delaware	3,751
Ohio	3,445

**Financial Report / Administrative**

The group discussed that Sarah would be absent for the February CFAB meeting due to her required in-person grant training, February 9 - 11, in Sacramento, CA. The group agreed to cancel February 10 CFAB meeting.

The financial summary is updated through December 2025 and reflects easement properties closed and recorded. Not all expenses may be reflected in this report; invoices are pending payment.

**Conservation Futures Annual Revenues 2025—Preliminary Totals**

2025 Conservation Futures preliminary revenues, which totaled **\$1,101,858-**, are as follows:

<i>Taxes</i>		State Land & Timber Sales	\$10,089-
Real & Personal Property Tax	1,041,454-	<i>Miscellaneous Revenues</i>	
Sale of Tax Title Property	\$10-	Investment Interest	\$29,247-
Leasehold Excise Tax	\$7,747-	Other Interest Earnings	\$62-
Timber Excise Tax	\$7,497-	Space Facility Lease LT&DNR	\$384-
<i>Intergovernmental Revenues</i>		Private Contributions	\$50-
DNR—ALEA	\$896-	Private Grants	3,500-

**CFAB 2026 Meeting Dates**

<del>February 10 canx</del>	June 9	October 13 (tbd)
March 10	July 14	November 10
April 14	August 11 (tbd/canx)	December 8
May 12	September 8	

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM