Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
February 13, 2018

Members in Attendance
Andrea Xaver   Owen Peth   Jim Glackin   Wendy Pare   Steve Sakuma

Members Absent
Scott DeGraw   Mike Hulbert

Staff and Others in Attendance
Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works

Owen called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Meeting Minutes
Steve moved to approve the 12/12/17 meeting summary; Wendy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Membership Update
Andrea shared two articles for the group. The first was a Capital Press article on WDFW's $1.6 million dollar contract with a consultant that leads the department's Wolf Advisory Group. The 12/21/17 article is available online here. The second article is from the 1/29/18 National Geographic and is entitled How China Plans to Feed 1.4 Billion Growing Appetites. Andrea shared a picture from the article showing how high-value crops are being grown in greenhouses next to suburban housing.

Steve shared that the Agricultural Summit is scheduled for Friday, February 16 from 9-5 at the WSU offices, followed by a social.

Kara shared that the County is again posting for assistance for the Farmland Legacy Program and the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

Miller Amendment
Kara shared that the County received the USDA's signature page for the Miller Amendment and the document has been recorded. The group discussed the precedent and policy around this amendment; this will be an ongoing discussion topic.
**Property Rankings**
Kara has received a couple of applications and will prepare the ranking packets for the March meeting.

**Property Update/Financial Summary**
The group reviewed the Program's fund balance and a list of properties in the queue. The current applicant list includes 1,317 acres and 29 development rights.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM