

**Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board
(CFAC)**

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Members in Attendance

Scott DeGraw Mike Hulbert Carolyn Kelly
Keith Wiggers Andrea Xaver

Members Absent

Steve Sakuma Owen Peth

Staff in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning

Guests in Attendance

Eric Nelson, Farmland Legacy Program Easement Monitoring Contractor
Allen Rozema, Skagitionians to Preserve Farmland

Open

Meeting opened at 7:00 a.m.

Member Updates

Carolyn spoke about the recent Samish Blitz event held in late February. The event was a 9-day work plan to reduce fecal coliform. All attendees worked towards a multi-phase plan to address fecal loading in three locations.

Andrea distributed a printed article from the Skagit Valley Herald, *Citizens Object to Commercial Annexation in Mount Vernon*. This is an article about discussions about land being annexed in the UGA. Andrea is concerned about no net loss for farmland.

Kara asked Carolyn if there is any information about the Conservation Stewardship Program. Carolyn said that program doesn't occur in Skagit County.

Meeting Minutes

Carolyn moved to approve the February 10 meeting minutes as amended correcting one typo and Mike seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The CFAC asked that I add absent CFAC member information to the minutes and request a RSVP for future meetings. A quorum is necessary to conduct advisory board action.

April Meeting Update

Kara reminded the CFAC that the next meeting is April 7 beginning at 7 am and will end shortly before 8:30 am. Staff and the CFAC will present a FLP update to the Board of County Commissioners at 8:30. All available CFAC members will attend. Kara went over the discussion items.

Property Ranking

Kara distributed a final ranking sheet and the CFAC discussed on how to prioritize the properties. Carolyn confirmed the need to prioritize the properties for staff to process each one in order of ranking and score. There was a discussion that it is important to keep the point structure and ranking flexible as situations with the property owner or funding leverage can change. Andrea likes keeping the process flexible. Keith said it's important to keep the process transparent and fair; the process needs to be objective, not subjective. Mike said it's important to rank the properties with the information we know as of today, which includes information from the application. Mike also noted that points will change as the situation changes.

Kara will sort the ranking sheet by total high points, whether it's the core or edge. She will bring the updated score order to the next meeting and show how the monies available will be allocated.

Kara mentioned that the easements and maps are currently being drafted and a title review of each property is under review.

Carolyn discussed briefly the difference between confidential and disclosable in regards to the pending applications. She cautioned the CFAC that information about the pending applications are confidential.

Annual Report

Linda and Kara are currently gathering information for the FLP annual report.

Easement Monitoring Report Update

Eric Nelson said he will attend two meetings per year to present a summary of his monitoring work. In 2014 there were a few landowner changes. Eric reminded Linda that he needs impervious surface information and complete easement copies in each monitoring file.

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 2015

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.