

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

Members in Attendance

Scott DeGraw Keith Morrison Steve Sakuma Andrea Xaver
Jim Glackin

Members Absent

Owen Peth

Staff and Others in Attendance

Mike Hulbert
Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Welcome

The Committee welcomed Keith Morrison. Keith will be replacing Mike as at At-Large representative. Keith shared his background on farming in the Valley and noted the previous boards that he's served on, including Western Washington Agricultural Association and the Skagit County Planning Commission. The group expressed gratitude for his accepting a position on this committee and wished Mike a fond farewell.

Meeting Minutes

Steve moved to approve the 02/13/18 meeting summary; Andrea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Update

Andrea shared that WDFW was considering extending elk range boundaries to the saltwater. She also shared a National Parks Magazine article from the summer of 2017 about the reintroduction of grizzlies into the North Cascades.

The group discussed the Right to Farm Ordinance (No. 12815); Kara share that this ordinance is posted to the FLP website.

Scott requested that the committee receive expense reports on a semi-annual basis to track Conservation Futures Program spending such as staff time.

Membership Update

Kara noted that she will route the Resolution appointing Keith then all memberships will be current.

Miller Amendment

Kara shared again for those that had missed February's meeting that the County received the USDA's signature page for the Miller Amendment and the document has been recorded under AF201802130072. The group discussed the years of history and lessons learned from this process.

The group discussed other landowner proposed amendments and the importance of staying current as generational transitions occur on the farming landscape.

Property Rankings

The group ranked FLP #207, an approximately 130 acre piece of land with 1 development right offered to the Program. The property received a score of 41. Scott noted that he has run bulls for that property owner.

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