

Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board
Meeting Summary
June 9, 2020

Members in Attendance

Steve Sakuma	Scott DeGraw	Wendy Pare
Jim Glackin	Owen Peth	Andrea Xaver

Members Absent

Keith Morrison

Staff and Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Member Update

Andrea noted a new Short Plat/Land Division in the Edison area completed by Haller Farms. Wendy shared background on the location and the family. Kara shared that we'd be doing the meetings over the phone for a while to be safe.

February Meeting Summary

Jim made a motion to approve with the noted correction; Andrea seconded. All in favor.

FLP Staffing

Kara shared with the group that additional support for the Program is still being discussed. The position could also help with Farmland Legacy Program and the long-term viability of agriculture component of the Voluntary Stewardship Program. Budget calls are in July and that's where it will be discussed in greater detail.

BCC Meeting Summary

Scott, Owen, Andrea, and Jim met with the Board of County Commissioners in February on the Cook Road property and discussed those meetings. The Commissioners were knowledgeable on the subject matter and listened attentively. Some notes included: there needs to be convincing evidence to vary from the appraised value; the Board's office probably would not want to see too much of a variation from appraised value; approaches need to be consistent; some lean on existing zoning; discussion on the goals of small parcels that prevent growth and adding large blocks of land.

The group will next meet with SPF next to discuss a path forward. They will assess SPF's maps and priority areas to strategize on defining when to seek an acquisition above appraised values. Steve shared the key to overall success is incorporating the knowledge all the members have on farmland

preservation. Other ideas included the potential to use discretionary points and potential threat of development and convert these points to a dollar figure.

Property Update

The group reviewed the property spreadsheet and the status of pending easements. The group will rank a new applicant at the July meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM