

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

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday August 11, 2015

**Members in Attendance**

Scott DeGraw	Mike Hulbert	Carolyn Kelly
Owen Peth	Steve Sakuma	Keith Wiggers
Andrea Xaver		

**Staff in Attendance**

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works  
Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning & Development Services

The meeting opened at 7:00 am.

**Member Updates**

Kara gave an overview of the Skagitationians to Preserve Farmland/Conservation District Farm Tour that took place on August 5. This event was attended by congressional and local agency representatives. A few of the stops on the tour included: A CREP planting on the Sundquist Farm and a new Lingonberry crop; Dike and Drainage District 15 irrigation pump and fish screen; Sullivan Slough pump; and a methane biodigester.

**Meeting Minutes**

Carolyn moved to approve the June 9, 2015 meeting minutes and Keith seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Update**

Kara announced that the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) fully funded the 2014 grant application. The Program thanks Kendra Smith with Innovative Environments for her work in 2014 to make this happen. Scott advised staff that the appraisal reviews required by RCO should be completed prior to the easement signing. Kara said the appraiser review contractor would like them in batches and she will pursue once there are enough initial appraisals received.

Carolyn said that the Conservation District has received authorization to start using RCPP grant funds. There is approximately \$500K available for farmland preservation.

**Properties in Queue**

Kara reported all easements in the 2014 applicant queue are drafted and appraisals ordered.

Kara also noted that two of the properties in the queue had a land lock issue. An access easement will be drafted, signed, and recorded by the property owners so that there is legal access to the properties. Doing so will increase the value of the property between \$10K and \$20K and then the program will have access for monitoring.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 am

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2015.