

Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
September 11, 2018

Members in Attendance

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

Members Absent

Keith Morrison

Staff and Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Dan McCarty, Skagit County Public Works
Bob Rose, Skagit River Maple
Steve McMinn, Skagit River Maple

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Member Update

Kara shared a couple of notes from the recent Agricultural Advisory Board Meeting. The AAB wrote a letter concerning the 2018 Comprehensive Plan docket no. "P-2" which would amend the definition of "Agricultural Accessory Use" to include limited food service, proposed by Roger Wechsler of Samish Bay Cheese. The AAB's response to the proposal was shared with the group. The group also discussed the Skagit Conservation District's "Rates and Charges" proposal; the handout received at the AAB was shared with the committee. Finally, Kara shared that the Swinomish Tribe recently submitted a Public Disclosure Request to the Farmland Legacy Program. The PDR sought information about the Program, USDA monitoring reports, and funding sources.

July Meeting Summary

Wendy moved to approve the 7/10/18 meeting summary; Andrea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Skagit River Maple

Steve McMinn of Pacific Rim Tonewoods and Bob Rose, a Tonewoods consultant, shared information on their property at the end of B.D. Minkler Road in the Utopia neighborhood. The farm acquisition has several improvements to support their figured maple research, including a barn and elk fence. The group had previously ranked the property when they applied to the program and it's currently in the appraisal stage.

Property Ranking

The committed ranked FLP applicant # 209. The property involves the acquisition of one development right and executing a 40 acre easement near Beaver Marsh and Kamb Roads. The property received a score of 24.

FLP Contractors

The group reviewed the status of the two FLP contractors (appraiser and monitoring agent). Both contracts are set to expire at the end of 2018. Kara also shared that a Planning Department staff member that has helped with the program was recently promoted so that job share has ended. She was a tremendous help in getting the FLP database.

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 1,460 acres and 32 development rights.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM