Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Committee (CFAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Members in attendance:
Carolyn Kelly, Chair
Dave Hedlin
Scott DeGraw
Keelh Wiggers
Mike Hulbert

Members Absent:
Andrea Xaver
Alan Merritt

Staff in Attendance:
Kendra Smith, Skagit County
Linda Christensen, Skagit County

Other Attendees:
Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland

Open
Meeting opened at 7:10 a.m.

The meeting minutes for August 9, 2011 were reviewed. Keith moved and Dave seconded to approve. The motion passed.

Financial Update
Kendra noted there is approximately $377,000 in the Farmland Legacy Program (FLP) cash account and approximately $270,000 will be added this fall. Approximately $15,000 is expected monthly expenses that include salaries, fringe, professional services, and miscellaneous costs. This number is purposely elevated to make sure everything is covered with extra contingencies factored in. An additional $4,500 is budgeted for marketing, education and travel; however this is an estimated cost.

The discussion turned to fundraising and Carolyn suggested that Linda investigate if Pay Pal could be an option on the county website. Another suggestion was a 4% Friday at the Skagit Valley Food Co-Op. Kendra received an idea from Bob Helton that the high school students could have a class project for the seniors to fund raise for saving farmland. Allen said that Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland is working on a memorandum of understanding with the county that will develop a fund raising component for the FLP.

Kendra gave an overview of the data in the cash flow spreadsheet and will work with Scott to develop it further. Scott would like to see an additional document that will show the following information: application date, payment dates, and the funding source.
Old Business

Letter of Intent
Kendra is seeking legal council in regards to the appraisal language in the letter of intent document. Scott recommended that when staff speaks to the applicant that the terms are in movement of percentages instead of a firm dollar amount because the preliminary appraisal can differ from the actual appraisal.

Nelson Impervious Surface Request
Nelson’s request to lump impervious surface from adjoining parcels onto one parcel through a boundary line adjustment: The CFAC conducted a long discussion ensued regarding this request. Dave requested a legal opinion and Scott had a concern on the effect on setting a precedent for other properties in the county.

Motion: Dave moved that the Conservation Futures Advisory Committee recommends to the Board of County Commissioners that they allow the amendment to easements to allow the consolidation of impervious surface of easements recorded as Auditor Numbers, 200111150101, 200308250249, and 200510130012, through a boundary land adjustment pending legal approval for Norm Nelson Inc., provided that this does not exceed the allowable coverage of the three combined easements. Mike seconded the motion and the motion carried with no further discussion.

Kendra will follow-up on the amendment process. The CFAC discussed on whether to charge property owners staff time for this process and will continue the discussion at the next meeting. This could be a recommendation made by the Board of County Commissioners.

New Business

Ranking Current Applications
A discussion was held regarding the Anderson property which is a Skagitonians project. This project came in after the CFAC had voted on the 2011 projects earlier in the year but did make the submittal to the USDA packet for consideration.

Motion: Keith moved to fund the Anderson property in partnership with the Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland if USDA does not provide the matching share funding and based on the appraised $100,000 value. Mike seconded the motion and the motion carried with no further discussion.

Kendra will be contacting USDA regarding the 2012 funding.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Linda Christensen

Approved by the CFAC Board on: October 11, 2011

Chair Carolyn Kelly