

**Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board
(CFAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2016**

Members Attendance

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

Members Absent

Wendy Pare

Staff Attendance

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

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

Member Update

There were no member updates.

Agenda Review

There were no changes to the agenda.

September Meeting Minutes

Mike moved to approve the September meeting minutes and Andrea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Washington State Recreation and Conservation (RCO) Grant Update

Kara announced the four properties presented to the RCO Farmland Preservation grant funding committee ranked our properties in the mid to lower half of all evaluated properties in Washington. Kara said a Waiver of Retroactivity will be submitted to RCO which will increase funding possibilities if the other higher ranked RCO projects don't materialize.

Kara shared elements the panel looked for during the property presentations. The CFAC discussed on how to strategize the process for the next funding cycle by collaborating with each other and outside sources.

Property Update

Scott said there needs to be a funding strategy with other agencies and groups now RCO is not a key funding source for this applicant round. We should contact Skagitians to Preserve Farmland (SPF) and Skagit Conservation District (USDA funding). Mike suggested John Schuh and Carolyn Kelly from the conservation district and Allen Rozema from SPF attend the November CFAC meeting.

Kara summarized the pending and completed property spreadsheet and map. She noted which properties have closed, received RCO reimbursement, pending RCO reimbursement, and pending RCO easement signatures.

Financial Update

Kara reviewed how much money is in the Conservation Futures (CF) fund and what is expected in taxes through 2016 and RCO reimbursement amounts. She estimates the CF funds should be able to close the four pending applications in 2017. There is one holdup for an application due to the lot certification not completed. The CFAC asked Kara to ask Dale Pernula, Planning & Development Services Director, for completion timeline. The CFAC is eager to move forward to expedite this property closing.

Mike asked if other groups, i.e., Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy have any grants. Kara said Ducks Unlimited have an aquatic grant available and will remember this if future applicants have property that qualify.

FLP Annual Report

Kara reported she has met with Bronlea Mishler to discuss articles in the report. Other items to be included: interview with a Skagit Valley resident, several quotes, and testimonials.

Owen wants to see an abbreviated annual report version sent to larger counties to gain investment interest. Bronlea favors using social media to get the word out about Skagit Valley farmland.

Monitoring Update

Per Eric Nelson's August property monitoring report, 81% have been completed and 70% billed from his contract. Kara said all USDA monitoring reports were submitted on time.

Other Business

Mike wants to know if the 39/1 properties are all accounted for on a map or spreadsheet. Kara is working on updating the FLP matrix, which lists all known protected properties. She will audit recorded protected properties against the FLP matrix.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.