

**Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Summary**  
October 13, 2020

**Members in Attendance**

Steve Sakuma	Scott DeGraw	Margery Hite
Jim Glackin	Andrea Xaver	Owen Peth

**Members Absent**

Keith Morrison

**Staff and Others in Attendance**

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works  
Kim Rubenstein, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland  
Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

**Member Update**

The group discussed the pandemic and the real estate market. Kara shared that the Land Title office has been extremely busy, Jim shared notes from his real estate inquiries. Andrea noted there is more pressure from developers and people moving here from cities.

Steve shared that he had some discussions with Tom Paulus and asked Kara to follow up on his conversations with Planning.

Kara shared that the Skagit Conservation District changed their Conservation Futures Advisory Committee appointee; the group welcomed Margery Hite as the new CD representative. Kara shared that Wendy was unable to make it to this meeting but she wanted to thank the group for working together throughout the years. Kara will route a thank you letter from the Board to Wendy for her service and update the resolution that outlines the CD representative.

**September Meeting Summary**

Andrea modified the last paragraph to change to Puget Sound Partnership  
Jim made a motion to approve the summary as modified, Andrea second. All were in favor.

**Property Monitoring**

Kai from Belle Bean Services presented on his work monitoring the Conservation Easements and getting to know the program. All 200 USDA easements were complete by the end of their federal fiscal year (9/30). Kai noted two potential infractions in research, both involving the accumulation of derelict vehicles. Kara is doing the follow up with the landowners.

## **Marketing**

Scott asked for this on the agenda to being an open-ended conversation. The idea started with Pierson and the back and forth with the Right of First Refusal. The group then discussed that property. Trillium said they would subordinate their ROFR for 10% of the proceeds from the sale of the development rights. It is now falls back to the landowners, at this point, on how they would like to proceed. Allen will work with the landowner's attorney to get them in touch with the Program's attorney to outline the alternative paths forward.

Owen expressed an interest in developing a marketing wing for the Program. The group discussed utilizing SPF or other options to develop materials, including what Kai has interest in and what he could provide. This is all in an effort to get more applicants for the program. A brochure or handout is a great place to start.

Margery asked if there are not enough people who know about the program or is there a problem with the appraisal process. The group discussed that it is a little bit of both. Scott commented that while SPF is a political organization, the CFAC is not.

Kara needed to leave for an 8:00 budget meeting with the Board of County Commissioners. The group discussed we would pick up where we left off here.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 AM