

Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board
DRAFT Meeting Summary
December 10, 2019

Members in Attendance

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

Members Absent

None

Staff and Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Member Update

Andrea reminded the group that real estate professionals are always seeking land to sell. She has received letters in the past about selling her holdings. Owen shared news about a project you can see from the freeway between Marysville and Everett; it first appeared to be a new road but it turns out the project involves a new dike to create hundreds of acres of habitat. Andrea shared information about a restoration project in Skagit County at Barnaby Slough.

Joint SPF November Meeting Recap

The group recapped the joint SPF meeting, including the FLP-187 application on Cook Road. Darrin and Scott had lunch with the landowner and discussed appraisal values. SPF's appraised value came in at \$260,000. The group discussed how they'd hate to miss this opportunity and reviewed options for the appraisals. Scott, Andrea, Jim, and Owen will reach out to the meet with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss how important this piece of land is and outline alternatives to making a competitive offer. This is a coming home view and the threat of conversion comes from many sources.

Overall the meeting went well and both Boards shared similar concerns. It was suggested that the Boards could meet more often to share notes on changes on the landscape, such as Barnaby Slough type projects. The group also discussed the value of meeting with the Agricultural Advisory Board, who pays close attention to code and permits in Ag-NRL zoning.

Market conditions were also discussed at the joint meeting. There are new deep pockets changing market conditions and it's making all others sharpen their pencils. Outside investment, people moving onto farmland, and shifting voter dynamics were all discussed.

CFAC Membership

Andrea's term is up at the end of the year and has agreed to stay on another term.

Property Update

Kara reviewed all properties in the queue and their status, with special attention to the FLP-195 on Benson Road (160 acres, 4 development rights). This applicant is seeking to close by the end of the year so Kara is ensuring that all the items necessary for routing are closely coordinated. The current closing date is set for 12/31.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 AM