

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

Members in Attendance

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

Members Absent

None

Staff and Others in Attendance

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works
Tara Naylor, Skagit County Public Works

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM

Member Update

The group discussed the status of exempt wells in Skagit County. Two Skagit Valley Herald articles from that morning talked about the process for getting building permits. Commissioner Janicki was quoted in the Water Task Force article as asking the Task Force to now turn to agriculture's irrigation needs. Jenna from the Drainage District Consortium and Gary Jones from Western Washington Agricultural Association are on the Task Force. The group discussed access to water in general and the Department of Ecology's presence and absence on enforcement issues.

September Meeting Summary

Andrea moved to approve the 10/9/18 meeting summary; Keith seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Property Ranking

The committed ranked FLP applicant # 211. The property involves the acquisition of three development rights and executing a 11 acre easement near the intersection of Memorial Highway and Avon Allen Road. The property received a score of 31. The group discussed the smaller acreage of this sight but noted that an accumulation of smaller agricultural properties still supports the local agricultural industry, purchasing the development rights removes a barrier to an entry level farmer for this piece of property fertile ground, it is adjacent to existing farmland, and an easement would save productive silt loam soils.

Steve shared that Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland has studied smaller pieces of farmland and would share the information with the group to get a better understanding of what types of agricultural land fall outside of agricultural zoning.

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 will renew the contract for Northwest Real Estate Valuation which provides the appraisals for the program. The group discussed releasing a Request for Qualifications to seek a monitoring agent for the 2019-2020 seasons. Kara will bring a draft RFQ to the January meeting for feedback.

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 1,500 acres and 33 development rights.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM