



Planning & Development Services

1800 Continental Place ▪ Mount Vernon, Washington 98273
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Staff Report

To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Jack Moore, Director
Re: Amendments to Skagit County Code 3.18.050 Conservation Futures
Date: June 29, 2023

Background

- The Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program is a county initiative that works to support policies, programs, and plans that enhance the protection of farmland. Funding comes from a conservation tax and is often leveraged with federal and state grants and private donations.
- The Skagit County Conservation Futures Advisory Board (CFAB) is responsible for administering the Farmland Legacy Program, which purchases development rights and places perpetual conservation easements on agricultural lands.
- When the CFAB was created, the County Finance Director and the County Planning Director were designated to serve as non-voting ex-officio members of the Committee. Skagit County now employs a Conservation Futures Program Coordinator.
- This proposal would name the Conservation Futures Program Coordinator as an ex-officio member of the CFAB in place of the County Finance Director and County Planning Director, while retaining oversight as required by state law for Purchases of Development Rights.

Recommendation

The Department recommends adoption of the proposal. The update aligns code with the current program management, staffing, and practice of the Conservation Futures Advisory Board.

Public Comment

Option 1: Email comments are preferred and must be sent to pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us with the proposal name (“Amendments to Skagit County Code 3.18.050 Conservation Futures”) in the subject line. Include your comments in the body of your email message rather than as attachments.

Option 2: Paper comments must be printed on 8½x11 paper and mailed or delivered to:

Planning and Development Services
Comments on “Amendments to Skagit County Code 3.18.050 Conservation Futures”
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon WA 98273

All comments must be received by August 31, 2023, at 4:30pm, and include your full name and mailing address. Comments not meeting these requirements will not be considered.

Option 3: You may also comment in person. The Board of County Commissioners is hosting the public hearing in the Skagit County Commissioners Hearing Room at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, at 10:30 am on August 28, 2023.

If you wish to provide testimony via the online meeting option, please send an email to pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us, with your name, phone number, and include a request to be added to the speakers list in the body of the email. Public hearing testimony is usually limited to three minutes, so written comments are preferred.

Anyone who plans to attend the public hearing and has special needs or disabilities should contact Planning and Development Services at (360) 416-1320 at least 96 hours before the hearing to discuss and arrange any special accommodations.