

# SUMMARY

## PDR Oversight Committee Meeting 6975 Hannegan Rd. Bellingham, WA

April 12, 2006

**Members present:** Rod Erickson, Veronica Wisniewski, Doug Dostal, Jim Dykstra, Barbara Dykes (via phone); Staff: Kraig Olason, PDS, Jessica Buer, PDS

1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

2. Review of Minutes

February's meeting minutes were reviewed. Veronica motioned to approve the minutes as written. Rod seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

3. PDR Applicant Updates

Kraig stated that Tom Fenton has chosen to withdraw his application from the PDR program. Kraig further stated that Tom disapproved of the Land Trust's involvement in Ray Fenton's (Father of Tom Fenton) property. A letter regarding Tom's withdrawal from the program was composed by Jessica for Rod's signature and the committee's approval. The committee approved of the letter. A minor correction will be made to the letter regarding current committee members. Jessica will forward the letter to Tom Fenton.

4. Round IV Ranking Process and Final Ranking Discussion

Kraig stated that Round IV brought in seven applicants. Those applicants are; Roger Bajema, Steve Groen, Louie and Jennie Sytsma, Greg Ebe, Dale Dickson, Herman Joneli and Marty Maberry. Handouts outlining the applicants ranking were made available to the committee by Jessica. The committee reviewed each applicant's ranking.

Kraig stated that Sytsma's ranking was incorrect due to a miscalculation of development rights. The current ranking suggests that the Sytsma property has 1-2 development rights. The property actually has nine development rights giving it a score of 100 instead of 20. Jessica will revise the ranking taking into account the additional points awarded Sytsma.

The committee stated that Marty Maberry's property might have ranked low due to the fact that the property's soils are not of the highest quality.

Kraig stated that Ebe and Maberry are not reserving any development rights. By not reserving development rights the properties will essentially be unbuildable, which is marketable for farming. Kraig stated that the committee might consider additional points for not reserving development rights.

The Ebe property and the Maberry property have equal ranking with a total score of 54. The committee discussed the issue and all agreed to add one additional point to Maberry's final score due to total acreage enrolled. Maberry's property totaled 87.46 acres while Ebe's property totaled 40.38 acres.

Veronica motioned to approve the ranking. The committee approved of the Round IV applicant ranking with the minor correction needed on the Sytsma property. Kraig asked the committee if they wished to include all applicants in the NRCS application for funds. The committee approved.

Kraig stated that funds could be an issue this year. He further stated that NRCS received \$1.3 million this year but like last year there are at least four other counties competing for the same funds.

5. IAC Farmland Preservation Program Grant

Two handouts pertaining to the IAC Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) Grant were made available to the committee by Jessica. The committee reviewed the handouts. Kraig stated that the Joneli and Dickson properties might be well suited for this grant.

Kraig stated that the FPP grant was a subprogram of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Grant funds total \$25,000-\$750,000 per project. Applicants must provide 50% of the total project costs. Kraig also stated that the grant was offered every two years and that 2006 was an application year.

The next meeting will be June 2, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. at the Conservation District Office.

**Signed,**

**Rod Erickson, Chair**

**PDR Oversight Committee**

