

# SUMMARY

## **PDR Oversight Committee Meeting 5280 Northwest Rd Bellingham, WA**

**October 4, 2004**

**Members present: Doug Dostal, Veronica Wisniewski; Staff: Kraig Olason, Jason Faith;  
Guests: John Gillies, Craig MacConnell, Larry Jacoby**

1. Overview of summer activities.

Kraig provided an overview of activities that occurred over the summer. He informed the group that the Holz property was a successful sale. The Jordan exploration contract was amended and approved by all parties involved. There was some discussion about the aspects of gas exploration and problems with drilling operations, impacts to the land, and wastewater disposal. Also, the Whatcom County Council signed the NRCS Cooperative Agreement.

2. Contract Extension.

Kraig announced the 12 month extension for the contract between the County and Whatcom Land Trust (WLT). There was a question about extending the contract for a longer period of time rather than having to renew the contract every year. Kraig stated he needs to talk with WLT about a longer term contract.

3. Initiation of Round 3.

Kraig discussed the need to initiate the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of applications. He stated that the County is moving ahead with round 3 and that applications will be accepted between Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>

There was some discussion about using bonds for additional program funding. Kraig stated that he needed further information on bonding procedures before any decisions or proposals could be made to Council about issuing bonds.

Kraig mentioned the need to wait until June of 2005 to find out about more federal funding for the program.

There was some discussion about having a community meeting to discuss and promote the PDR program. Everyone thought it was a good idea.

John Gillies asked about the Gorsenger property. Kraig stated that the appraiser has until the first week of November to finish appraisal on the property and that the County will wait on the outcome of that appraisal before moving forward with Paul Dairy appraisal.

4. PDR Committee tasks and work items.

Kraig handed out and discussed PDR work and task items. He stated that the conservation easement is acceptable and has all the necessary approvals. He further stated that the Jordan Exploration contract problems seem to be resolved.

Kraig also mentioned his desire to put the PDR Committee information on County's web site, but expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of the web master at maintaining updated information.

Kraig went on to discuss individual property targeting for the program. Those in attendance thought this was a good idea. Kraig asked to be informed of any property owners to contact in regards to soliciting them to apply to the program.

5. Recent correspondences.

Kraig discussed recent correspondences with Rick and Debbie Mouw and to Michael Durbin's widow, Julie.

The Mouw letter was sent to inform Rick and Debbie that their PDR application would no longer be considered for funding due to problems with the property title. There was no response from the Mouws.

The letter to Julie was to express the Committee's condolences to the sudden death of Michael Durbin.

6. Public comments.

Larry Jacoby, an interested citizen attended the meeting with questions for the committee in regard to the PDR program. Larry was interested in how the County was spending the Conservation Futures Funds (CFF). He was particularly interested in a property around Acme, which he stated the County bought with CFF money and was subsequently placed under an easement, which prohibited the cutting of the timber located on the property. Larry stated that he believes timber rights are personal property and therefore cannot be bought or put under restrictions when the property is bought with CFF money. Kraig stated that this issue is out of the scope of the PDR Committee and that it could not provide Larry with the information he was seeking.

A discussion continued about the scope of the PDR program and the Committee's purpose and about Conservation Futures Funds.

**Next meeting will be November 1st, 9:00am.**

**Signed,**

**Rod Erickson, Chair  
PDR Oversight Committee**