

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Voluntary Stewardship Program (Ruckelshaus Option)

Meeting notes for November 17, 2011

Lynden Fire Station 71, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Five speakers talked about the voluntary stewardship program option, three in favor (WA Cattlemen’s Association, Whatcom Conservation District, and WC Farm Bureau) and two against (Lummi Nation and Citizen’s Alliance for Property Rights).
- ◆ There were approximately 40 citizens (non-AAC members) in attendance, including a number of Whatcom County Council members (3) and Planning Commissioners (3).
- ◆ The Committee voted to recommend the County “opt-in” to the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) by a vote of 5 to 4.

MEETING NOTES

Quorum

A quorum was present with 12 of the 13 voting members in attendance (see sign in sheet at the end of the meeting notes). Debbie VanderVeen called to the meeting to order and chaired the meeting. The committee member sign-in sheet and record of votes is attached.

Reports, Presentations, and Deliberations

A panel of speakers provided the AAC and public their perspective on Whatcom County’s option to take part in the Voluntary Stewardship Program (ESHB 1886) as an alternative to the current Critical Areas Ordinance. The speakers that participated include:

- George Boggs, Whatcom Conservation District;
- Lesa Starkenburg-Kroontje, Whatcom County Farm Bureau;
- Skip Richards, Whatcom Chapter of Citizen’s Alliance for Property Rights;
- Randy Kinley, Lummi Nation;
- Allen Chapman, Lummi Nation (spoke after Randy left);
- Jack Field, Washington Cattlemen’s Association.

A recording of the presentations is available.

Discussion

The Agriculture Advisory Committee and audience asked questions of the speaker panel until approximately 5:50 PM. Todd Jones introduced a motion that the AAC “recommend to the Council that Whatcom County opt-in to the Voluntary Stewardship Program.” The motion was seconded by Vicki Hawley. The vote on the motion was 5 Yes, 4 No, and 2 abstained, see the attached sign-in sheet for a record to how each member voted.

Special Meeting of Agricultural Advisory Committee - Sign in Sheet - Nov 17, 2011

NAME			Voting Members SIGNATURE	Affiliation
Bayer	John	NA		Farmer
Blok	Ed	Y	<i>Ed Blok</i>	Whatcom Farm Friends
Boxx	Lesa	A	<i>Lesa Boxx</i>	Consumer
Buys	Dave	No	<i>Dave Buys</i>	Farmer
Cieslar	Brian	No	<i>Brian Cieslar</i>	Expertise in Farm Programs
Hawley	Vicki	Y	<i>Vicki Hawley</i>	Processor
Helm	Larry	No.	<i>Larry Helm</i>	Farmer
Finger	Mike	Y	<i>Mike Finger (5 PM)</i>	Farmer
Kentch	Wesley	No	<i>Wesley Kentch</i>	Farmer
Jones	Todd	Y	<i>Todd Jones</i>	Farmer
Plagerman	Leroy	Y	<i>Leroy Plagerman</i>	Farmer
Vander Veen	Debbie	Chair	<i>Debbie Vander Veen</i>	Farmer
Yoder	Richard	A	<i>Richard Yoder</i>	Conservation District Board
Ex-officio Members and Contributing Members				
Antholt	Charles			Chair Emeritus
Bierlink	Henry			Whatcom Farm Friends
Boggs	George			Conservation District
Gilles	John			Farm Expertise
Gliva	Carly			FFA Youth
Hall	Alex			NRCS
Benedict	Chris			WSU Extension
Gill	Peter			Whatcom County staff
Lutz	Samya			Whatcom County staff

Y = YES No = No A = Abstain