

MEETING SUMMARY

PDR Oversight Committee

December 4, 2009, 8:30 AM

Planning and Development Services Office, 5280 Northwest Ave

Voting members present: Rod Erickson, Veronica Wisniewski, John Gillies, Allison Aurand, Paul Schissler; Guests: Ann Russell; County PDS Staff: Samya Lutz, Dean Martin, Wain Harrison

1. Public Comments/Announcements: There were no public comments. The following announcements were made

- Tuesday, December 8 Council meeting – the Executive will thank Rod & Chuck Antholt
- Saturday, December 12 dinner at Allison's house to celebrate Rod & his contributions to the Purchase of Development Rights committee

2. Review of Minutes: The November 13, 2009 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

3. Round VII/VIII Purchase of Development Rights – Status & Discussion

Ann Russell from Kulshan Community Land Trust is carrying out the contract to help with outreach for the Purchase of Development Rights program. She gave the committee an update on the progress to-date. She has spoken with more than a dozen farmland owners, but has not gotten many call-backs or much interest, aside from 2 or 3 property owners.

She asked for ideas to get past Purchase of Development Rights program participants involved with outreach. Some ideas that surfaced: video testimonials to compile onto DVD or website; workshop format where past participants speak; Skagit folks up here to speak (Allison suggested Gerry Nelson from Double W Potatoes in Burlington). John, Paul, and Allison have all had at least limited experiences with video projects.

John VanderVeen's parcels are still moving through process. If the meeting Samya has with him & Diane next Tuesday firms up their decision on which parcels to move forward with, an appraisal will happen soon.

4. Other Discussion

Allison gave a brief report on the activities of the subcommittee looking in to Purchase of Development Rights program improvements. They are getting closer to a proposal to put in front of the group.

John gave an update on the Natural Resources Marketplace (NRM) group, and the proposed Economic Development Initiative grant. Questions about this EDI proposal were discussed, including the need for more clarity in the goals and programmatic outcomes. Dean will

send out the most current draft to the group. The intent is to get support for further fleshing out the concepts involved in the NRM idea, including where and if purchasing development rights from ag land might be part of how it develops. It should not change how the program is currently operating or slow it down.

Committee Membership – One application is in for the reappointment of John Gillies to the committee (which all members enthusiastically support); and two applications are in for new members. John Steensma has applied for a ‘farmer’ position. He is a dairyman, and just now leaving the Planning Commission where he has been a moderate voice. He is philosophically pro-agriculture; committed to the PDR concept and protecting the core of ag in the county. Mark Harting has applied for the ‘farm supplier’ position. He works for Cargill and does nutrition counseling for many of the dairies in the county. The committee asked to defer their recommendations until more information is available to share. **[Motion offered by Veronica via email on December 8, 2009: “to recommend Mark Harting and John Steensma to fill the two open positions on the PDR oversight board.” Paul seconded. None opposed.]**

5. Next committee meeting: The committee will meet again on Friday, January 22nd, 8:30 AM, at the **Smith & Northwest Planning & Development Services Department** office.

Signed, Rod Erickson, Chair PDR Oversight Committee