

# AGENDA

## Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee

Online Meeting Only

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83517926824?pwd=SnVUOVRKbVBOekdrUnVzNDIySTJOZz09>

Passcode: cepoc

Friday, December 3, 2021

8:30 – 10:00 AM

1. Welcome, public comments, announcements & agenda review (10 minutes)
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes (5 minutes)
3. Discussion items/business (65 minutes)
  - Outreach Strategy
  - Recruitment for CEPOC Vacancies
4. Next meeting (10 minutes)
  - January 28, 2022 8:30-10:00 AM- Online Meeting Only
  - Future agenda items

Included in the meeting packet (or provided at the meeting):

- October Meeting Minutes

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance. Please contact meeting facilitator, Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, at 360-778-5956 or [rsnijder@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:rsnijder@whatcomcounty.us).



**Determination of a Quorum/ Welcome**

We have a Quorum for the meeting.

**Public Comments**

No public comments at this time.

**Announcements**

No public announcements at this time.

**Approval of Minutes – September**

Burr moved to approve the September meeting minutes. Heather seconded. **The motion passed with all in favor.**

**Discussion Items/Business**CEPOC Vacancies

The committee discussed the two farmer vacancies. Committee members indicated that decreasing the meeting frequency in summer could be helpful for farmers on the committee. It was suggested to advertise the meetings as monthly with flexibility, as well as advertise that meetings are attended online. The committee suggested organizations to reach out to for recruitment to fill the two vacancies.

Lot of Record Requirement

Becky asked the committee for the history on why the Lot of Record requirement was added to the CEP process in 2018. The committee shared the need for the County to complete due diligence in documenting legal lots and number of densities on a property. Becky shared that the Lot of Record application fee held up applications from completing the Lot of Record sooner. Heather moved to use the annual CEP budget to cover the Lot of Record fees. Burr seconded. **The motion passed with all in favor.**

Conservation Futures Process Document

The committee discussed what to do with the Conservation Futures Fund Process document that they created and presented to Executive Sidhu. The committee suggested sharing the document with other departments that use Conservation Futures Funds. Becky will work with other County staff to review the document.

### CEP Applicant List

Becky gave an overview of the conservation easements purchased in 2021, applicants with Council approval for purchasing easements, and the current applicant list needing Council approval. The committee ranked the current applicant list. Heather moved to approve the ranked applicant list and requested purchasing the top five applications that have matching grant funds. Burr seconded. **The motion passed with all in favor.**

### Grant Opportunities

Paul inquired about grant opportunities for the CEP. Becky shared that a consultant generated a list of potential grants for the CEP, and she was looking into funding. Becky shared that she will be applying for federal funding through the Healthy Forests Reserve Program and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program when applications open, likely end of this year.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Outreach Strategy
- Recruitment for CEPOC Vacancies

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2021, 8:30-10:00 AM. This will be an online meeting only.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.**