

AGENDA

Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee

Online Meeting Only

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83517926824?pwd=SnVUOVRKbVBQekdrUnVzNDIySTJQZz09>

Passcode: cepoc

Friday, February 25, 2022

8:30 – 10:00 AM

1. Welcome/Introductions, public comments, announcements & agenda review (10 minutes)
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes (5 minutes)
3. Discussion items/business (65 minutes)
 - Committee Elections
 - Buy-Protect-Sell Strategy for Farmland
 - Review Draft Editorial
 - Outreach Strategy
4. Next meeting (10 minutes)
 - March 25, 2022 8:30-10:00 AM- Online Meeting Only
 - Future agenda items

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

- January 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.

**CEP Oversight Committee
Meeting Summary
January 28, 2022**

Start Time:	8:30 a.m.
Location:	Online Meeting One Staff Member located at Northwest Annex, Central Conference Room, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA

Meeting Highlights
There were 14 people in attendance (5 of the 5 voting members; 2 PDS staff members; 4 Contributing Members; 3 Guests).

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present
D’Agnolo, Sean	Producer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glyzinski, Jen	Real Estate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mackay-Brown, Heather	Incorporated, Non-farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Neely, Burr	Unincorporated, Non-Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schissler, Paul	Farm Supporting Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VACANT	Producer	<input type="checkbox"/>
VACANT	Producer	<input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum Present	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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PDS Staff	Affiliation	Present
Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke	CEP Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

Attendees – Ex-Official/Contributing	Affiliation	Present
Henry Bierlink	Ag Water Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chris Elder	WCPW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alex Jeffers	WLT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Solvei Metcalf	WLT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

Attendees – Guests	Affiliation	Present
Michael Scisco	Geo 5 Designs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ali Jensen	WCHD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lisa McShane		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

Determination of a Quorum/ Welcome

We have a Quorum for the meeting.

Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

Announcements

Becky introduced the new PDS Assistant Director, Steve Roberge. Alex shared information about a property on McGee Rd that Whatcom Land Trust is interested in protecting.

Approval of Minutes – December

Heather moved to approve the December meeting minutes. Sean seconded. **The motion passed with Heather, Sean, Paul, and Jen in favor and Burr abstaining.**

Discussion Items/Business

Public Works Watershed Update and Water Rights Discussion

Chris gave a watershed planning update from Public Works. The Salmon Recovery Plan is currently being updated by the WRIA 1 Salmon Staff Team. The WRIA 1 Watershed Management Project is implementing the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board's 2018-2023 Work Plan. One strategy in the work plan is Drainage Based Management Planning which is working in 3 pilot basins (Drayton Harbor, Bertrand-Schneider, and South Fork Nooksack River). The DBM Work Group has produced a preliminary list of action items for the South Fork watershed and will engage a broader community group to review in the near future. Public Utility District # 1 is leading the Regional Water Supply Planning strategy to identify current and future water sources and uses. The WRIA 1 Data Hub is another Board strategy and being developed to provide share data and interactive maps with watershed entities and will support a public interface in the future. Chris shared information about Whatcom County's recent acquisition along the Black Slough and two other pending acquisitions in the South Fork watershed. Chris also provided information regarding the impending water rights adjudication in the Nooksack basin and the Executive's proposed Solutions Table framework. Multiple consultants have been enlisted to support these efforts.

Meeting attendees also discussed a buy-protect-lease strategy to protect farmland. This would require working with a third party, as Whatcom County does not have the capability to manage and lease land. Examples of land trusts in Washington that do this type of

work were given. These included South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust, Washington Farmland Trust, as well as organizations in Wenatchee.

Staff CEP Presentation to Council in February

Becky went over the program update presentation to be given February 8th to County Council. Committee members provided feedback.

Review Draft Slides for Public Outreach

Becky shared the slide deck for public outreach to organizations. The committee made recommendations, including using the current slide deck as a handout and developing separate slides for a Power Point presentation. Jen has contacted the Whatcom County Association of Realtors to request presenting at one of their monthly meetings. The committee will discuss other organizations to present to at the next CEP oversight committee meeting.

New Members

Becky shared that two new committee members were appointed. She will reach out to give them an overview of the program before the February meeting.

Future Agenda Items

- Elections
- Buy-Protect-Sell Strategy
- Review Draft Editorial
- Outreach Strategy

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, February 25, 2022, 8:30-10:00 AM. This will be an online meeting only.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.