

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

Start Time:	8:30 a.m.
Location:	Online Meeting and In-Person at Northwest Annex, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA

Meeting Highlights
There were 10 people in attendance (4 of the 7 voting members; 1 PDS staff member; 3 Ex-Official; 2 Guests).

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present
D’Agnolo, Sean	Producer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glyzinski, Jen	Real Estate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jones, McKale	Producer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mackay-Brown, Heather	Incorporated, Non-farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Margolis, Jeff	Producer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Neely, Burr	Unincorporated, Non-Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schissler, Paul	Farm Supporting Business	<input checked="" 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
Alex Jeffers	WLT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Solvei Metcalf	WLT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alan Chapman	WCD Supervisor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

Attendees – Guests	Affiliation	Present
Paul D’Agnolo	WSCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sydney Donalds	Student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input 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

No announcements at this time.

Approval of Minutes – July

Paul moved to approve the meeting minutes. Jen seconded. **The motion passed with all in favor.**

Updates Since Previous Meeting

No updates at this time.

Discussion Items/BusinessWhatcom County Budget Update

Becky provided an update on the county's biennial budget review process and informed the committee that their CEP staffing request was not approved in the Executive's proposed budget. Paul stated he had contacted Councilmember Galloway regarding the CEPOC's request. Paul and Jen volunteered to reach out to councilmembers to garner support.

Utilize Buy-Protect-Sell and Buy-Protect-Lease Strategies

Becky re-capped past committee discussions on buy-protect-sell easements to aid in farmland access and shared that the CEP recently was awarded federal grant funding to pursue such easements. The committee discussed a potential need for affirmative agricultural easements, which in addition to our current easements, would require that the protected property be farmed (as opposed to just be available for farming). Alex shared that an Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value is an alternative used by New England land trusts. The committee inquired as to what an affirmative agricultural easement would cost. Becky pointed out that grant funders might not pay for the affirmative easement

value, but will check. Jen and Becky will contact appraisers to get a better understanding as to how this type of easement is valued.

Farmland Access Forum

Becky summarized past discussions regarding the hosting of a farmland access forum. Feedback was given on the forum's size and focus, with starting small, then opening to the public. Suggestions were given for developing a steering committee with representatives from the Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee, Agriculture Advisory Committee, Ag Water Board, Whatcom Conservation District, Whatcom Land Trust, and WA Food Policy Forum.

Funding

Paul summarized past discussion for increasing funding for Conservation Futures or REET 3 through a bond measure or council approval.

Public Comments

No closing comments at this time.

Future Agenda Items

- Review Master Applicant List
- Whatcom County Budget Update
- Affirmative Agricultural Conservation Easements
- New Natural Heritage Plan
- Farmland Access Forum Update
- Conservation Futures Coordination

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2022, 8:30-10:00 AM. This will be a hybrid meeting with an in-person and remote option.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 AM.