

AGENDA

Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee

Online Meeting Only

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Passcode: cepoc

Friday, March 25, 2022

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)
 - Review Draft Editorial
 - Holistic Strategies for Farmland Protection
 - Interdepartmental Efforts for Conservation Futures
4. Next meeting (10 minutes)
 - April 22, 2022 8:30-10:00 AM- Online Meeting Only
 - Future agenda items

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

- February 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.

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 – January

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

Discussion Items/BusinessCommittee Elections

The committee discussed officer positions. Paul was elected as chair and Heather as vice-chair. **The motion passed with all in favor.**

Buy-Protect-Sell Strategy for Farmland

Alex and Becky gave an overview of the Martin Agricultural Conservation Easement, which was a buy-protect-sell acquisition in 2021. The Whatcom Land Trust purchased the property, then leased it until finding a farmer to sell to at the same time a conservation easement was purchased. The committee inquired about the county buying farmland. Staff pointed out that this is difficult because of staffing needs. The county does not have the ability to manage leases.

The committee discussed having a holistic strategy. This topic was added to the next meeting's agenda.

Becky asked the committee for suggestions on matching farmers to farmland. Several organizations were suggested for input, including Tilth Alliance, WA Farmland Trust, Jefferson Land Works, FFA, farmer's market, and Whatcom Conservation District.

Outreach Strategy

Becky gave an overview of upcoming outreach opportunities. She also provided an update on the February program presentation to County Council. The committee discussed focusing outreach on forestland and including recreation when possible.

Future Agenda Items

- Review Draft Editorial
- Holistic Strategies for Farmland Protection
- Interdepartmental Efforts for Conservation Futures

Next Meeting

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.