

# AGENDA

## Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee

Online Meeting Only

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94692947783?pwd=Qmt0VjZzNHBlVWtYWwNzdWFnZnphZz09>

Passcode: pdroc

Friday, October 22, 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)
  - CEPOC Vacancies
  - Lot of Record Requirement
  - Conservation Futures Process Document
  - CEP Applicant List
4. Next meeting (10 minutes)
  - December 3, 2021?, 8:30-10:00 AM- Online Meeting Only
  - Future agenda items

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

- September 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. Becky announced that Jiwan had resigned from the committee and there are now two producer vacancies.

**Approval of Minutes – July 23rd**

Heather moved to approve the July 23rd meeting minutes. Jen seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Discussion Items/Business**Climate Action Plan

Chris gave an update about the draft Climate Action Plan, which was presented to Council on August 10, 2021. There will be a Council work session on September 28, 2021. The draft Climate Action Plan mentions increasing funding and staff for the CEP.

The committee discussed whether the placement of a conservation easement allows the property owner to generate carbon credits. It was agreed that language should be added to conservation easements to allow this. Becky will look into this.

Promotional Video

Becky shared the draft promotional video. The committee discussed adding drone footage of the I-5 corridor. The committee also suggested edits to the language to be used for the voice over.

Jacoby Application

Becky went over the Jacoby application and asked if the committee would be willing to pursue the purchase without state or federal grant funding in order to speed the application along. Becky explained that the next round of state RCO funding would only award funding in two years and that there is concern the landowner will back out before

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then. The committee suggested looking to see if other grant funding is available that has a faster turn around and will discuss again at the next meeting. The committee also requested to see the list of current applications.

### Meeting with County Executive

Paul gave an overview of his and Sean's meeting with Executive Sidhu in August. He shared that the Executive's Office is supportive of providing 50% of Conservation Futures Funds for conservation easements, but that this would not be put in a written procedure. The draft Conservation Futures Fund process document created by the committee will be added for discussion at the next meeting.

### Healthy Forests Reserve Program

Becky gave an overview of potential grant funding called the Healthy Forests Reserve Program, which is administered by USDA NRCS. Becky shared that this funding can include restoration, and she was seeking partner organizations that could assist with restoration planning. The committee indicated an interest in including restoration with conservation easements. It was suggested to let the applicants drive the funding. Becky will inquire with potential partner organizations and will reach out to current applicants about interest in restoration work.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- CEPOC Vacancies
- Climate Action Plan Update
- Review CEP Applicant List
- CFF Process Document

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, October 22, 2021, 8:30-10:00 AM. This will be an online meeting only.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM.**