

Determination of a Quorum/ Welcome

We have a Quorum.

Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

Announcements

Becky announced that Council approved the request for \$38,000 for grant assistance and outreach support for the PDR Program.

Heather brought up that there is still a vacancy for a farmer position on the PDR Oversight Committee. Suggestions were given for advertising this vacancy.

Approval of Minutes - February

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

Discussion Items/BusinessConservation Futures Fund Process

Becky announced that she is waiting to hear back from the Executive's Office regarding the steps to pursue creating a formal process for Conservation Futures Fund use. Paul will revise the draft process document that he created.

Agricultural Mitigation Update

Becky announced that no further discussions were had regarding agricultural mitigation, due to staff needing time to review documents. Becky and Chris gave an update of the rezoning proposal for Rural Study Areas. The Committee discussed this proposal, developing a pilot project in Drayton Harbor, and creation of a water bank. Chris will share a water bank evaluation report that was completed for Whatcom County.

Paul motioned to make a recommendation to the Executive's Office to circulate the report and consider its findings. Heather seconded the motion. Becky will send the Committee the report to review.

Jiwan asked what was needed to push for a water bank. It was suggested that he and other farmers contact their Watershed Improvement Districts or Henry Bierlink from the Ag Water Board.

Review Proposed Code and Guideline Changes

The Committee reviewed the proposed code and guideline changes to change the program's name and update the program's scoring criteria. Becky will make a comparison of the initial priority area maps with the recent landscape analysis to share at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the impact the Critical Areas Ordinance has on the number of remaining development rights on a property. Since the Critical Areas Ordinance doesn't offer permanent protection and its limitations on number of development rights are not easily quantified, it was decided to leave the current scoring criteria as "remaining development rights offered under current zoning." It was also noted that properties inundated with critical areas will have a lower appraisal value.

Alex suggested adding points for forestry applicants who will follow DNR state land requirements for forest management as opposed to only private land requirements. It was also noted that points for "Owner willing to restore ecosystem processes beyond minimum required practices" is too vague.

Outreach Strategy

Becky shared that two past PDR program participants have agreed to help with outreach and serve as program ambassadors. She is also stated she is drafting up a contract for the 2021 outreach and grant support work and will email the scope of work to the Committee. Outreach strategies were added for discussion at the next meeting.

Future Agenda Items

- Review Proposed Code and Guideline Changes
- Outreach Strategy
- Conservation Futures Fund Process Update
- Agricultural Mitigation Update

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, April 23, 2021, 8:30-10:00 AM. This will be an online meeting only.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.