

**CEP Oversight Committee
Meeting Summary
April 22, 2022**

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

Meeting Highlights
There were 9 people in attendance (4 of the 7 voting members; 1 PDS staff member; 2 Contributing Members; 2 Guests).

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present
D’Agnolo, Sean	Producer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glyzinski, Jen	Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jones, McKale	Producer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mackay-Brown, Heather	Incorporated, Non-farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Margolis, Jeff	Producer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Neely, Burr	Unincorporated, Non-Farmer	<input checked="" 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
Chris Elder	WCPW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alex Jeffers	WLT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

Attendees – Guests	Affiliation	Present
Alexander Harris	RE Sources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Scisco	Geo 5 Designs	<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 – March

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

Discussion Items/BusinessCEP Resource Need

Becky gave an overview of the Conservation Easement Program's resource need, and identified staff time as the limiting resource. Becky shared that she prioritizes program administration over outreach. The committee discussed requesting additional staff to support outreach. Burr mentioned that the committee has written two letters in the past to the County Executive to request additional staff for the program. Becky will share the past letters with the committee to review. Chris suggested the CEP oversight committee co-write a letter with the Climate Impact Advisory Committee, since the Climate Action Plan calls out support for the Conservation Easement Program.

The committee discussed trying to obtain grant funding to support a temporary or part-time position. Becky will look into funding options and County constraints for temporary and part-time positions.

Heather moved to request appointment of staff support for two years with Conservation Futures Funding. **The motion passed with all in favor.**

Program Funding

Becky gave an overview of yearly program expenditures. The committee discussed the need to increase local funding. Becky shared a Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) 3 summary document created by King County for discussion.

Holistic Strategies for Farmland Preservation

The committee discussed overall planning for conservation. Paul mentioned that Whatcom County created a Natural Heritage Plan in the 90's and inquired if there needs to be a new plan. Jeff stated that we need a whole network to acknowledge needs to solve all problems. Paul shared that there was a recent article about DNR putting land into carbon credits. Heather requested that we routinely receive updates from other organizations working on conservation in order to understand their priorities that could relate to conservation easements.

Future Agenda Items

- Staffing Request
- Program Funding

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, May 27, 2022, 8:30-10:00 AM. This will be an online meeting only.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.