



Jefferson County Conservation Futures Committee
Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:30-6:30 PM
Jefferson County Public Health, Pacific Room
Port Townsend, WA
FINAL MINUTES

* **Decisions and action items are indicated in bold font.**

Members Present: Scott Brinton – Agriculture; Lige Christian, District 3; JD Gallant – District 3; Jerry Gorsline, District 2; Ray Hunter, Interest – Fallow Farms; Richard Jahnke, Interest – Coastal Areas; Janet Kearsley, District 1; Phyllis Schultz, Interest – Working Lands; Sarah Spaeth, Interest - Jefferson Land Trust; Fred Weinmann, Interest - Ecology; John Wood, District 1

Members Absent: Phil Andrus, District 2; Lorna Smith, Interest - Ecotourism

County Staff Present: Tami Pokorny, Water Quality Division and Recorder

Guests: None

I. Call to Order:

Chair Fred Weinmann called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM

II. Review of Agenda:

The agenda's times were mistakenly off by one-half hour.

III. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of November 17, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

IV. Observer comments:

None

V. Old Business:

Fall Presentation to the BoCC

The BoCC approved the changes that the CF Committee recommended for the 2012 versions of the application, rating sheet and program manual [by resolution on December 12].

Outreach for 2012 and Display

Staff reported that, since the last CF meeting in November, the 2012 CF funding round was announced through the Local 2020 list serve, the city newsletter, a KPTZ public service announcement, placed on the county homepage and in legal and display ads with the PDN and Leader, and sent to watershed planning, salmon recovery and other natural resources list serves. Staff and two award recipients were interviewed about the program by Phil Andrus during his "Tossed Salad" program in late November. The draft display was brought to the Conservation District's annual meeting and to the native tree sale at the fairgrounds in

February. The North Hood Canal Chamber of Commerce was also contacted about hosting a CF presentation but there has been no response yet.

Sarah Spaeth requested ongoing outreach because the land trust has received calls about projects that couldn't be developed in time to meet the grant deadline. Tami Pokorny also received a few inquiries – a couple had to do with trail corridors. The Quilcene Fair is an important outreach venue, but the Quilcene Farmer's Market may not be active this summer.

CF Committee members then reviewed the draft display panels. Specific comments included:

- Chimacum Estuary photo is effective
- Need a salmon and pileated woodpecker [no longer needed]
- Need a photo of Tamanowas Rock
- Replace harder to see photos

Staff will email a pdf of the panels. Any additional comments are due by April 11. The panels will be then finalized for 2012 and ready for farmers' markets and other events this summer.

JD Gallant asked how best to explain a conservation easement. Sarah Spaeth summarized that a conservation easement is essentially a deed restriction that runs with the land that in some cases applies to the entire property or part of the property – depending on what's negotiated. You can design an easement to protect a forested portion of a property from development or clear cutting. The easement is held by the land trust or another qualified conservation organization and then it's their job to monitor and enforce the terms of the easement. Sometimes landowners donate the easement, but in many cases the landowners want to sell those rights.

When you have a conservation easement for farmland, what you're trying to do is protect the soils, so agriculture easements are often about preventing impervious surfaces and making land available to agricultural uses. Janet mentioned that sometimes WDFW will lease those kinds of lands to grow crops for wildlife to use in the winter.

It is a big responsibility for a conservation organization to take on long-term monitoring and stewardship of an easement. Often grants don't allow use of funds for stewardship – that's one reason why the CF Program's O&M funding can be important. Sometimes when a landowner donates or sells an easement they provide some stewardship funds as well. JLT is required through their accreditation to put stewardship funds aside, to monitor at least annually and to also legally defend the easement against encroachments. There will soon be a national stewardship defense fund which will function as an insurance policy.

VI. New Business

2012 Applications Packets

Staff reviewed the contents of the packets – three applications, three ratings sheets, the program manual and the updated guide sheet that Janet Kearsley developed.

Calendar Update and Review

Between now and April 11, Committee members should review the applications and develop questions. On the morning of April 11, Sarah Spaeth and Peter Bahls of Northwest Watershed Institute will make project presentations to the Committee. The meeting will run from 10AM – noon. At 12:45PM everyone will meet again at NWI's white barn at 2151 Dabob Road. The next site visit will be Bolton Farm at about 2

PM followed by L. Brown Trust property at the corner of Hwy 101 and W. Uncas Road at about 3PM. Plan to be back in PT about 4:30. All site visits will be videotaped.

Staff reminded the members not to discuss the applications except during public meetings which include the site visits. If conversations do occur, these will need to be shared with the Committee at the ranking meeting. After April 11th any additional questions should be sent to staff no later than April 20. No questions may be asked of applicants after April 20.

Site Visits

Anyone absent for one or more of the site visits may view a videotape instead. Coordinate with staff for a copy or an opportunity to watch the video at the Health Department. The videos should be watched before the 20th and any questions sent to staff. Answers from the applicants are due back to staff by April 26th.

Ranking Meeting

The preferred day for the ranking meeting is now **Monday, May 7 from 3-6 PM**. The location is yet to be determined.

New Information

Applicants will respond to the Committee's questions by April 26th. After that, no new information may be brought forward.

Completed Rating Sheets

Rating sheets are due to Tami in hard copy or emailed PDF by Thursday, May 3rd. If necessary, they can be turned in as late as the morning of the ranking meeting.

Remote Participation

Staff provided proposed language from the county attorney to amend the bylaws (within Article IV (g.)) to better allow for remote participation in meetings by Committee members. The important aspect of remote participation is to hear and be heard. Skype and a dedicated conference call phone are available at the Health Department. It might also be possible to stream the meetings live to the internet but video conferencing is limited to compatible sites at the far end. Two tablet computers may even be an option. Staff should be notified well in advance if remote access is needed.

There was agreement in principle to modify the bylaws. John Wood modified the proposed language to:

"Attendance at CF Committee meetings by any technology that allows the member not physically present to hear and be heard during the CF Committee meetings shall constitute attendance."

John Wood moved to add the proposed language to Article IV (g) of the bylaws; the motion was seconded by Lige Christian.

The motion was approved unanimously; there were no abstentions.

Election of New Officers

John Wood was elected Chair by acclamation.

Rick Jahnke Vice Chair by acclamation.

VII. Other/ Administrative

Staff Update

Staff asked Sarah Spaeth to provide an update on CF projects. The Carlson Chimacum Creek property in the lower Chimacum main stem closed last week. JLT is planning to have the property open on a controlled basis, possibly with traffic barriers. The site may offer educational opportunities and be a base for restoration partners.

The Winona – Bloedel transaction will close early in April. The landowner is open to selling the remaining 22 lots that she holds as well. JLT is considering a campaign to focus on the area.

The Salmon Creek Riparian (Ruck property) project is not going through. The landowner didn't accept the value identified in the appraisal. This was the second attempt to acquire this property. The residual CF funds from the project will revert back. This is the first CF project that could not be completed successfully.

The other remaining project is Tamanowas Rock. JLT received an extension to repay its loan from the Bullitt Foundation. The project is expected to close by the end of the year. Nicholson Short Plat is likely to close soon.

Membership

The next membership term to expire will be Phyllis Schultz's in April of 2013. The Committee now has 13 members.

Fund Balance

Fund balance was approximately \$598,000 at end of February.

VIII. Observer Comments

None

IX. Adjournment

Chair Wood adjourned the meeting at 6:25 PM.