



**Jefferson County Conservation Futures Committee
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Jefferson County Library Shold Room
Port Hadlock, WA
August 10, 2017, 5:00 PM to 6:08 PM**

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

Members Present: Phil Andrus, District 2; Mary Biskup, Chair, District 1 (by phone); JD Gallant, District 3; Rob Harbour, Interest – Working Lands; Ray Hunter, Interest – Fallow Farms; Richard Jahnke, Interest – Coastal Areas; Craig Schrader, Interest – Climate Change; Sarah Spaeth, Interest - Jefferson Land Trust; Dave Wilkinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Members Absent: Vacant, Interest – District 2; Scott Brinton, Interest – Agriculture; Lige Christian, District 3; Lorna Smith, Interest – Ecotourism

County Staff Present: Tami Pokorny, Environmental Health, Recorder

Guest Observers Present: Connie Gallant

I. Call to Order:

Chair Mary Biskup called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

There were no guest observers present.

III. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the May 3, 2017 meeting were preliminarily approved. The minutes from April 17, 2017 meeting will be considered for final acceptance at the next meeting.

IV. Review of Agenda:

There were no changes to the agenda. Chair Biskup turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Wilkinson.

V. Observer comments:

None

VI. Old Business:

A. Subcommittee News: None

VII. New Business

A. Amendment Request Protocol

Staff, in partnership with Vice Chair Wilkinson and Sarah Spaeth, introduced Jefferson Land Trust's request for a scope change to the 2014 Snow Creek Watershed Acquisitions Project to the BoCC on July 24, 2017. The Board requested input from the CF Committee in light of the substantive nature of the request: replacing one of the two project parcels with a third parcel. There is currently no specific

guidance for conservation futures scope changes. The norm for recommending *new* projects is an absolute majority of the CF Committee. An absolute majority (at least 7 members) is present here.

Sarah Spaeth clarified that Jefferson Land Trust is not requesting any new money for this project. Instead, they are asking to shift existing funds to the new “Barry” property because one of the original subject properties, “Jenks”, is no longer available. The Barry property is listed for sale right now, and the RCO has approved amendments to two Land Trust salmon recovery grants to acquire Barry and match CF funds. The RCO process is for such requests to go before the local Lead Entity’s “Technical Advisory Committee”. Perhaps a similar process could be developed for the CF Program. The Land Trust has about \$18,000 remaining in its 2014 Snow Creek CF grant.

B. Snow Creek Watershed Acquisitions Project Amendment Request

Originally there were two properties to be acquired: Irvin and Jenks. Irvin was acquired; Jenks sold to someone who isn’t interested in working with JLT. The 22-acre Barry property is now available for purchase downstream of Jenks’ 25-acres (**Appendix A**). The habitat on Barry is higher quality than Jenks’ with more extensive wetlands, skunk cabbage, big spruce trees and cedar. Ray Hunter mentioned having fished for steelhead in the area and witnessed fish spawning there. The zoning is RR 1:5 and there is timber harvest potential. The match ration for CF/RCO would remain the same (16%/84%).

Staff has brought requests for CF project changes before the BoCC in the past. A process involving the CF Committee is needed to support substantive changes such as this one.

Connie Gallant entered the meeting space.

Rob Harbour presented a series of findings:

1. The County’s approved the use of CF funds to assist the Jefferson Land Trust in purchasing the Jenks property during the 2014 funding cycle to support the goal of protecting riparian and salmon habitat along Snow Creek. It entered into an agreement with the Land Trust to complete the project.
2. The Land Trust diligently pursued the purchase of the Jenks parcel but due to the decisions of the original landowner and subsequent purchaser, the purchase is no longer possible.
3. The 22-acre Barry property recently became available for purchase. The parcel is in the same watershed as the Jenks property and is located about a half mile to the north.
4. Purchase of the Barry property will protect the identical natural resources as the Jenks property was intended to protect. The Jenks and Barry parcels are of similar size. The Barry property would be an important addition to the ongoing protection efforts of the Upper Snow Creek Preserve.
5. Funding is still available for this purchase from RCO grants along with conservation futures funds earmarked for the Jenks purchase. No additional county funds will be required to purchase the Barry property. A portion of the RCO funding may expire soon.
6. The RCO, which will fund 84% of the total acquisition cost, has approved amendments to allow the purchase of the Barry property.
7. The proposed amendment is a viable project and worthy of conservation futures funding.

The committee took a break for staff to enter the findings into the meeting notes. The findings were then edited slightly.

Phil Andrus moved to approve the findings. Mary Biskup seconded. David Wilkinson asked for discussion. All approved with one abstention by Sarah Spaeth.

The committee then provided answers to the standard appearance of fairness questions:

1. Do you object to the participation of any particular Committee member in this decision-making process? *No one had objections.*
2. Do you, as a member of the Committee, stand to gain or lose any financial benefit as a result of the outcome of this hearing? *No one did.*
3. Are you, as a Committee member, able to hear and consider this proposal or application in a fair and objective manner, i.e., without bias and without a predisposition to any particular result regarding this proposal or application? *Sarah Spaeth said she could not and had abstained from the motion. Everyone else could.*
4. Have you, as a Committee member, engaged in any communication outside this hearing with either a proponent or opponent of this particular proposal or application? *No one except Sarah Spaeth had. She recused herself.*
5. Are you, as a Committee member, able to certify that you have attended the project presentation and either attended the site visit or viewed the official videotape? *There was no such opportunity. However, the members present heard the presentation of the amendment request.*

Phil moved to approve amending the project. Ray Hunter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Sarah Spaeth recused.

Dave Wilkinson mentioned that the BoCC had expressed appreciation for the work of the committee, and the quality of the work that it does, during the July 24th meeting. The CF Committee discussed possible next steps for the project and amendment process and whether or not a hearing should be requested. [Staff later confirmed with management that a hearing should be requested].

VIII. Other/ Administrative

Staff Update:

Fund Balance - No fund balance was provided.

Membership - Staff requested that the committee connect her with potential candidates for the vacant District 2 seat.

Technology - Staff inquired whether it would be helpful to use a web service to allow viewing of documents online during meetings. The Committee felt that the capacity to call or Skype into a meeting remains important but that no additional technological support was needed at this time. Phil Andrus requested that ranking criteria comments be sent to Staff for forwarding in advance of the subcommittee meeting on this topic. The next full meeting will be October 5th.

IX. Observer Comments

X. Adjournment

Rick Jahnke moved to adjourn. Phil Andrus seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Draft minutes submitted by Tami Pokorny

DRAFT

Appendix A

