



OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Washington State
Conservation Commission
PO Box 47721
Olympia, WA 98504-7721
360/407-6200
Fax: 360/407-6215
www.scc.wa.gov

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

APPROVED

The Farmland Preservation Task Force met on August 6, 2008 at the Goldendale Grange in Goldendale, Washington. Chair Bob Hart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Task Force Members

Bob Hart, Chair
Sheryl Cox
John Mankowski
Representative Joel Kretz
Jacob Anderson
Greg Schoenbachler
Senator Jim Honeyford
Representative Larry Springer
Commissioner Rudy Plager
Fred Colvin
Lynn Bahrych
Lee Faulconer

Commission Staff

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Ron Shultz, Special Assistant to the Exec. Director
Josh Giuntoli, Program Assistant
Lori Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant
Butch Ogden, South Central Regional Manager

Guests

Heather Ballash, Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) for Dee Caputo
Dave Brown, USDA/NRCS for Gus Hughbanks
Colleen Kerr, Senate
John Charba, HRC/Legislature
John Larson, WA Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
Samantha Graf, Capital Press
Jim Sizemore, WA Cattleman's Association
Andrew Christianson, Goldendale Sentinel
John Stuhlmiller, WA Farm Bureau
Tom Tebb, Dept. of Ecology/Water Resources
Bob Lee, Senate
Tom Doll, Public Citizen
Bob Rose, Consultant
Wally Morrison, Yakima County Assessor's Office

1 **Approval of Agenda**

2

3 To accommodate presenter's schedules and for timing purposes a few items were shuffled
4 on the preliminary agenda that was presented to the task force.

5

6 **June 4, 2008 Task Force Meeting Minutes**

7

8 **Lynn Bahrych moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented.**

9 **Fred Colvin seconded**

10 **Motion passed**

11

12 **Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) update 5248 update and**
13 **Future of Farming** Ron Shultz, WA Conservation Commission

14

15 CTED in statute is required to take the lead to define agricultural land with guidance from
16 other agencies. CTED has been holding public stake holder meetings throughout the state.
17 CTED intends to present preliminary concept drafts of proposed amendments to the
18 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) at workshops in the fall of 2008.

19

20 Transfer of development rights (TDR), Heather Ballash from CTED hopes to bring a report
21 forward to the October 1 task force meeting in Spokane.

22

23 5248 Ruckelshaus Center process began in July 2008 in commitment of the Governor and
24 Legislature to address the issues behind initiative 933.

25

26 Future of Farming (FOF) debrief by Lee Faulconer FOF steering committee member with
27 the WA State Department of Agriculture and task force member. Future of Farming have
28 held a series of focus groups throughout the state reaching out to agricultural producers,
29 food processors and other key industry stakeholders. For those who could not make the
30 focus meetings had an opportunity to fill out the FOF on line survey by the closing date of
31 July 15, 2008.

32

33 Lee reported approximately 350 people attended the focus group meetings. 750 filled out
34 the online survey. From the information and input received, FOF steering committee
35 produced a series of issue papers. Some of the issue papers can be found in the meeting
36 packet under tab 5. To note some of the issues were on water, farm labor, farmland
37 preservation, transportation, regulations, and education.

38

39 **Executive Order 80-01 by Governor Dixie Lee Ray**

40

41 Mark Clark presented the Executive Order and asked the task force if they wanted to
42 revamp the order to focus more on the farmland preservation?

43

1 **Representative Joel Kretz moved to approve WSCCStaff to evaluate Executive Order**
2 **80-01and determine if the concept of some form of process for consideration of**
3 **impacts to farmland preservation from various activities has merit, and if so, staff is**
4 **to develop recommendations for the Task Force’s consideration on the best**
5 **approach to accomplish this process.**

6 **Sheryl Cox seconded**

7 **Motion passed**

8

9 **Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) funding and process**

10 Ron Shultz, WA Conservation Commission and Jacob Anderson, Task Force member

11

12 Ron Shultz represented the Conservation Commission and task force member Jacob
13 Anderson represented the Farmland Preservation Task Force in a round of reviewing 18
14 proposals from around the state which were reviewed and scored on a point system.

15

16 Mr. Anderson noted that \$14 million dollars went to the West side of the state. Figure
17 comes to about \$10,000.00 an acre for 1400 acres.

18

19 Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) had \$100 million for the biennium.

20

21 Representative Springer suggests the task force come up with a dollar amount to be
22 administered through the WWRP. It should be money added not money already there.

23

24 **Growth Management Act (GMA) 101**

25 Ron Shultz, WA Conservation Commission

26

27 The Growth Management Act passed in 1990. GMA has 13 goals all in which are equally
28 important with an added goal that includes shorelines.

29

30 The GMA requires state and local governments to manage Washington’s growth by
31 identifying and protecting critical areas and natural resource lands, designating urban
32 growth areas, preparing comprehensive plans and implementing them through capital
33 investments and development regulations. This approach to growth management is unique
34 among states.

35

36 Additional information from this presentation can be found on the Commission’s website at
37 www.scc.wa.gov

38

39 Josh Giuntoli, Commission staff passed out to the task force and guests the updated
40 version of the Right to Farm survey.

41

42 Jacob Anderson took a moment to share with the task force a proposed Klickitat farmland
43 preservation zone which would be voluntary program that he has been working on for the

1 Klickitat County. He has public meeting and would like support of the task force by a written
2 letter to the Klickitat Commissioners.

3
4 **Representative Kretz moved the task force send a letter to the Klickitat County**
5 **Commissioners letting them know the task force would like to express their support**
6 **for the proposed Preservation Zone concept as a useful tool to address the**
7 **preservation of agricultural lands, and would encourage their consideration of the**
8 **concept to see if it would be appropriate in the Klickitat County to protect and**
9 **preserve agricultural land and viable agricultural activities.**

10 **Greg Schoenbachler seconded**

11 **Motion Passed (10 yes 2 no)**

12
13 **ACTION ITEM:** Letter of support to Jacob Anderson and Klickitat Co. is needed by August
14 14, 2008.

15
16 **Open Space Taxation Act**

17 Bob Rose, Consultant

18
19 Power Point presentation and revised report can be found on the Commission website at
20 www.scc.wa.gov.

21
22 **ACTION ITEM:** Staff will come up with proposals on the incentives Bob Rose provided.

23
24 **Water Issues Discussions and Recommendations**

25 John Stuhlmiller, Farm Bureau and Tom Tebb, WR Section Manager at Dept. of Ecology

26
27 Senator Honeyford spoke briefly about the 4 corners meeting he had attended on Monday,
28 August 4, 2008 in Olympia. Some of the items talked about at the meeting was water,
29 funding, infrastructure needs, storage, tracking adjudications and how to avoid drying up
30 NE Washington.

31
32 4 corners group will narrow these items down and choose top 3 to bring forward to
33 legislation.

34
35 **Federal Farmland Preservation Programs**

36 David Brown USDA/NRCS

37
38 **Criteria for State grants to local PDR programs**

39 Don Stuart American Farmland Trust

40
41 Presentation can be found on the WA Conservation Commission website: www.scc.wa.gov

42
43

1 **Region Report/Commission Update**

2 Mark Clark, Executive Director of WSCC

3

4 Discussion on educating various groups of people. Provide training to attorney's
5 specifically on agricultural land use aspects.

6

7 Farm Credit System did a workshop specifically targeted for farmers. Sheryl Cox also
8 mentioned the outreach "road shows" WSU hosted to educate locals.

9

10 Sheryl also mentioned the different ag groups that are meeting in the upcoming months-
11 cattleman's Association, the HORT group. She invited the task force to attend one of these
12 meetings and update these groups to educate them on the task force's mission and
13 progress.

14

15 **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

16

17 Have a report from Department of Agriculture on their International Trade program.

18

19 **Public Comment**

20

21 Tom Doll from Klickitat County spoke of his brother Willie Doll who lives in Montana. Willie
22 Doll is on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission. He owns and operates a
23 27,000 acre farm and ranch in South Phillips County with 800 mother cows. He is an avid
24 hunter and has an active interest in streamside management, improved range conditions
25 and waterfowl production areas. He invited the task force to give Willie a call in Montana
26 406.658.2120.

27

28 **Adjourn at 4:20 p.m.**