

2014 FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN WASHINGTON

FARMLAND PRESERVATION OPPORTUNITIES AND SHARED COLLABORATION

SESSION BIOGRAPHIES

DECEMBER 11TH EDMONDS CONFERENCE CENTER

2014 Farmland Preservation in Washington will provide a work session aimed at bringing planners, farmland preservationists, and farmland management professionals together for a day of learning and conversation. Topics covered will include Comprehensive Planning and Agriculture, Voluntary Stewardship Programs and similar programs, and tools for Protecting Agricultural Lands. Participants will have the opportunity to engage speakers and attendants in an open discussion period following each presentation. Presentation materials are based on Washington State legal planning requirements and current approaches to strengthening farmland preservation and improving farmland use.

*With many thanks to the **Planning Association of Washington (PAW)** five Certification Maintenance (CM) credits have been sponsored and applied for by PAW. Please be sure you indicate on the sign in sheet if you are interested in receiving credits. PAW is a grassroots educational organization serving the needs of planning commissioners, elected officials, tribes, special purpose districts, private sector firms, state agencies, students, and interested citizens. PAW's vision is of strong and livable communities guided by informed citizens. Their mission is to help shape a vibrant Washington through effective and informed community planning. In the past 40 years, over 30,000 elected officials, planning commissioners, and interested citizens have taken the Short Course on Local Planning created by PAW. If you'd like to help PAW provide education to other decision makers in your communities, please consider being a speaker. Learn more at www.planningpaw.org.*

Doug Peters

Doug works as a Senior Planner in the Growth Management Services section of the Washington state Department of Commerce, promoting watershed based planning to protect and restore the Puget Sound ecosystem. As the Puget Sound Watershed Planner, he manages grants to local governments, researches local permitting information, and participates on the Watershed Characterization Technical Assistance Team, to help local governments implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda. His background includes environmental policy work on critical areas and natural resource lands planning issues, including the use of the best available science. Previously he worked for the Washington state Departments of Ecology & Natural Resources, and at the Oregon state Department of Environmental Quality. Doug received a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental planning in 1977 from Huxley College, Western Washington University. He received a Masters of Environmental Science degree in 1986 from The Evergreen State College.

Tim Trohimovich

Tim is a graduate of Willamette University and the Lewis & Clark College, Northwestern School of Law, cum laude. Tim is currently the Director of Planning & Law for Futurewise. In his over 30 years as a planner in Washington State, Tim has work on a wide variety of policies and regulations including provisions to designate and protect agricultural lands. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the Washington and Oregon State Bar Associations, and the Bar Association of the United States Supreme Court. At Futurewise he focuses on land use and environmental policy studies, education, technical assistance, policy advocacy, and land use and environmental law. Tim serves on advisory committees for local governments and Washington State. He is a frequent speaker on land use planning and environmental law. In 2011, Tim was named one of three instructors of the year for the University of Washington's Professional and Continuing Education Program.

Ron D. Shultz

Ron is currently the Director of Policy at the Washington State Conservation Commission, where he provides policy assistance on a variety of issues including the Office of Farmland Preservation, agriculture policy, water quality law, land use, mitigation and mitigation banking, and Puget Sound issues. Ron represents the Commission before the legislature and to state and federal agencies. Ron received his JD from Seattle University School of Law in 1990; and studied international trade law and international business law at the University of Salzburg in Austria. Following law school, Ron practiced law in Olympia, Washington with a small firm, specializing in environmental law, land use, and toxic tort litigation.

Kate Dean

Kate is the coordinator of the North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council, which works to grow opportunities in agriculture and other natural resources sectors in Jefferson and Clallam Counties (WA). Kate works to find creative, collaborative solutions to complex land use, economic and environmental challenges. She authored *Farmland Changing Hands: A Study of Innovative Land Transfer Strategies* with funding from the USDA. Kate was a farmer for fifteen years before moving into farmland preservation, enterprise development and policy.

Al Latham

Al worked for Jefferson Co. Conservation District for 20 years, and has worked closely over the years with Jefferson Co. on agriculture and critical areas issues.

Don Stuart

Don is the former Pacific Northwest Regional Director for American Farmland Trust and former Executive Director for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. Through both of these positions he played an important part in the passage of Washington legislation creating the Dairy Nutrient Management Act, authorizing the Conservation Commission to secure and hold agricultural easements, creating the WWRP farmland easement program, creating the Washington State Office of Farmland Preservation, and authorizing a study of the potential for environmental markets in agriculture. He is also a formerly practicing attorney. And he is the author of: "Barnyards and Birkenstocks: Why Farmers and Environmentalists Need Each Other" recently published by Washington State University Press.

Chris Elder

Chris is the Purchase of Development Rights Outreach Coordinator for Whatcom County. He has spent the last decade farming and teaching agriculture in both Whatcom and Skagit Counties. He is currently completing his MS in Agriculture from WSU. Whatcom County has a strong Agriculture Zone with 87,412 acres and an additional 663 acres under permanent agricultural conservation easement outside of that zone. In recent years, Whatcom County has faced a lack of applications from farmers interested in participating in the Purchase of Development Rights Program. Furthermore financial challenges associated with reduced national farmland preservation funds and the task of explaining the cost to value benefit associated with permanently preserving farmland will be explored in detail. Chris is excited to share lessons from the front lines of purchasing and extinguishing development rights on valuable agricultural lands and how Whatcom County is overcoming financial and social challenges to continue preserving farmland.

Allen Rozema

Allen is the Executive Director of Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland. He was born and raised in the Skagit Valley and brings over 19 years of experience to SPF in natural resource management, land use planning, and economic development at the federal, state, city and tribal government level. Graduating with a Master's of Science in resource management from Central Washington University, Allen has worked as a Hydrological Technician for the United States Forest Service, an Environmental Technician for the Washington State Department of Transportation and as a Natural Resources Planner and Community Development Coordinator for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. Prior to joining SPF in 2006, Allen served as the Planning Director for the City of Sedro-Woolley. Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland has contributed greatly to Skagit County's overall success of permanently preserving over 12,000 acres of farmland.