

**Agricultural Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
February 11, 2015**

Start Time:	3:35 p.m.
Location:	Whatcom County Northwest Annex

Meeting Highlights

There were 14 people in attendance (6 of the 13 voting members; 2 ex-officio, contributing, 4 staff members and 6 others).

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present
Bayer, John	Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blok, Ed	Whatcom Farm Friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boxx, Lesa	Consumer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buys, Dave	Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hawley, Vicki	Processor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helm, Larry	Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Finger, Mike	Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kentch, Wesley	Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Overson, Leighton	Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plagerman, Leroy	Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vander Veen, Debbie	Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Van Dyk, Landon	Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yoder, Richard	Conservation District Board	<input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum Present	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------------	--

Attendees – Ex-Official/Contributing	Affiliation	Present
Antholt, Charles	Chair Emeritus	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bierlink, Henry	Whatcom Farm Friends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Boggs, George	Conservation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gillies, John	Farm Expertise	<input type="checkbox"/>
(vacant)	FFA Youth	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hall, Alex	NRCS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benedict, Chris	WSU Extension	<input type="checkbox"/>

Attendees - Staff	Present	Attendees - Staff	Present
Beringer, Karin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Boxx, Becky	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elder, Chris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cliff Strong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mark Personius	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Others Present		
Erica Strobel-Public Works	Chuck Timblin	Albert DeBoer
Corina Cheever	Andrea Hood	Tyler Schroeder

Approval of Meeting Summary

There was no quorum and so the minutes from January were not passed.

Open Session for Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Old Business

- ★ Pollution Identification and Correction Program (PIC) Presentation by Erika Douglas from Public Works.

Erica completed her presentation on the PIC Program that she started at the January meeting. She went over water quality standards for salt and freshwater, and explained how Whatcom County was not currently meeting the standards.

Larry Helm asks about septic tank loans. They are given out by the health department and the opportunity council. Larry also talks about waterfowl and the need to discover their effect on water quality. He would like to see the program address waterfowl. Erika says the PIC Program is a human impact program and focuses on things that humans can do differently to improve water quality. Erika encourages field observations of waterfowl to be reported—let the PIC program know about large quantities of waterfowl and they will test upstream and downstream from the field where waterfowl congregate to see how big of an impact they make.

Mike Finger inquires about the rise in poor water quality. The graph looks like the County was doing well until a few years ago when we started seeing spikes of fecal coliform again. What could cause that?

Larry Helm asks where water quality violations get reported/referred if landowners don't cooperate with the PIC Program. The violations will be dealt with by PDS if it is a violation of a critical area. If not a critical area violation, it gets reported to Ecology.

Wes Kentch would like to know how CREP affects water quality. He says CREP increases wildlife habitat (increased fecal coliform) and woody debris (possible increase of klebsiella). George Boggs comments that he would like to come to the committee at a later date to give a presentation on CREP. He says that the CD has studies and information about CREP. George also responds to Mike's question from earlier about what is causing the spikes in fecal coliform. He says that years ago, the focus was on dairies to improve water quality. The outreach did not address sewage or small livestock operations. He also says that recently we have had a few wetter years after some relatively dry ones. When you have the wetter years, more runoff will reach the streams and ocean. Wetter years are more likely to have spikes and show the problem areas. George also says that the CD is more than willing to come out and give technical advice on water quality improvements for interested landowners.

The committee would like to see the letters that were sent to landowners. They would like to have copies of both the first PIC letter and the follow-up Public Works letter. Karin Beringer will email those letters out to the committee. The committee also encourages

Erika to get out into the community to do more outreach before letters are sent. Erika says that she will be presenting to the Hanie Grange on Feb. 27.

New Business

- ★ Small Lot Ag Rezone

We have run out of time to discuss the small lot ag zones but we will devote the next meeting to that. Karin asks that the committee please review the materials given to be ready for the next meeting.

- ★ Karin announced that the next meeting will not be on March 11, as staff has a training to attend that day. She will send out an email to the committee with different dates to choose from, but the meeting will still take place the second week of March.

Closing:	
End Time: 5:30 p.m.	
Next Meeting Date/Time/Location	TBD, 2015/3:30 pm/Northwest Annex