

# AGENDA

## Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee

Planning and Development Services – Northwest Annex

5280 Northwest Dr, Bellingham, WA 98226

Central Conference Room

or

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83191145833?pwd=ck40VIR0dnppM2s1MFIsTUVldC9ZQT09>

**Passcode: cepoc**

**Friday, December 9, 2022**

**8:30 – 10:00 AM**

1. **Welcome, announcements, public comments, & agenda review (10 minutes)**
2. **Approval of previous meeting minutes (5 minutes)**
3. **Updates since previous meeting (5 minutes)**
4. **Discussion items/business (60 minutes)**
  - Whatcom County Budget Update
  - Review Master Applicant List
  - Farmland Access Forum Update
5. **Public comments (5 minutes)**
6. **Next meeting (5 minutes)**
  - January 27th, 8:30-10:00 AM- Online and In-Person Option
  - Future agenda items
    - Committee Elections
    - Affirmative Agricultural Conservation Easements

Included in the meeting packet (or provided at the meeting):

- October Meeting Minutes

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance. Please contact meeting facilitator, Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, at 360-778-5956 or [rsnijder@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:rsnijder@whatcomcounty.us).

**CEP Oversight Committee  
Meeting Summary  
October 28, 2022**

Start Time:	8:30 a.m.
Location:	Online Meeting and In-Person at Northwest Annex, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA

<b>Meeting Highlights</b>
There were 10 people in attendance (4 of the 7 voting members; 1 PDS staff member; 3 Ex-Official; 2 Guests).

<b>Attendees – Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>
D’Agnolo, Sean	Producer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glyzinski, Jen	Real Estate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jones, McKale	Producer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mackay-Brown, Heather	Incorporated, Non-farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Margolis, Jeff	Producer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Neely, Burr	Unincorporated, Non-Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schissler, Paul	Farm Supporting Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Quorum Present</b>	<b>YES</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>PDS Staff</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>
Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke	CEP Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Attendees – Ex-Official/Contributing</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>
Alex Jeffers	WLT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Solvei Metcalf	WLT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alan Chapman	WCD Supervisor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Attendees – Guests</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>
Paul D’Agnolo	WSCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sydney Donalds	Student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

**Determination of a Quorum/ Welcome**

We have a Quorum for the meeting.

**Public Comments**

No public comments at this time.

**Announcements**

No announcements at this time.

**Approval of Minutes – July**

Paul moved to approve the meeting minutes. Jen seconded. **The motion passed with all in favor.**

**Updates Since Previous Meeting**

No updates at this time.

**Discussion Items/Business**Whatcom County Budget Update

Becky provided an update on the county's biennial budget review process and informed the committee that their CEP staffing request was not approved in the Executive's proposed budget. Paul stated he had contacted Councilmember Galloway regarding the CEPOC's request. Paul and Jen volunteered to reach out to councilmembers to garner support.

Utilize Buy-Protect-Sell and Buy-Protect-Lease Strategies

Becky re-capped past committee discussions on buy-protect-sell easements to aid in farmland access and shared that the CEP recently was awarded federal grant funding to pursue such easements. The committee discussed a potential need for affirmative agricultural easements, which in addition to our current easements, would require that the protected property be farmed (as opposed to just be available for farming). Alex shared that an Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value is an alternative used by New England land trusts. The committee inquired as to what an affirmative agricultural easement would cost. Becky pointed out that grant funders might not pay for the affirmative easement

value, but will check. Jen and Becky will contact appraisers to get a better understanding as to how this type of easement is valued.

### Farmland Access Forum

Becky summarized past discussions regarding the hosting of a farmland access forum. Feedback was given on the forum's size and focus, with starting small, then opening to the public. Suggestions were given for developing a steering committee with representatives from the Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee, Agriculture Advisory Committee, Ag Water Board, Whatcom Conservation District, Whatcom Land Trust, and WA Food Policy Forum.

### Funding

Paul summarized past discussion for increasing funding for Conservation Futures or REET 3 through a bond measure or council approval.

### **Public Comments**

No closing comments at this time.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Review Master Applicant List
- Whatcom County Budget Update
- Affirmative Agricultural Conservation Easements
- New Natural Heritage Plan
- Farmland Access Forum Update
- Conservation Futures Coordination

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2022, 8:30-10:00 AM. This will be a hybrid meeting with an in-person and remote option.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:42 AM.**