



**Jefferson County Conservation Futures Committee
FINAL Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 16, 2018 6:08 PM - 8:28 PM
Chimacum Grange, Chimacum, WA**

* Decisions and action items are indicated in bold font.

Members Present: Phil Andrus – District 2; Mary Biskup, Chair – District 1; Scott Brinton, Interest – Agriculture; Lige Christian – District 3; JD Gallant – District 3; Rob Harbour, Interest – Working Lands; Ray Hunter, Interest – Fallow Farms; Richard Jahnke, Interest – Coastal Areas; Craig Schrader, Interest – Climate Change; Lorna Smith (called in), Interest – Ecotourism; Sarah Spaeth, Interest - Jefferson Land Trust; Dave Wilkinson, Vice Chair – District 1

Members Absent: None

David Wilkinson 9/12/18

County Staff Present: Tami Pokorny, Water Quality Division; Rebekah Brooks, recorder

Guests: Peter Bahls, Northwest Watershed Institute

I. Call to Order:

Chair Mary Biskup called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes:

The Jefferson County Conservation Futures (JCCF) Committee approved by consensus the draft minutes of the November 9th, 2017 Meeting as written. The JCCF Committee accepted by consensus the final minutes from the October 5th, 2017 Meeting as written, which were signed by the Chair.

IV. Observer comments: There were none.

V. Old Business: There was none.

VI. New Business

Confirm Date for Ranking Meeting

The date for the Ranking Meeting was confirmed for May 9th, 2018, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The location is to be determined. (This has since been changed to 3:30 to 5:30 PM at the Jefferson County Public Health, Pacific Room.) Tami Pokorny reviewed the upcoming JCCF calendar. Scoring sheets are due to Tami by May 7th.

Iglitzin Project – Sponsor’s Request for Change

With the change in Tarboo Creek, Farm and Forest match to include funding from the Navy, there was a surplus amount that could be banked for future projects within the Tarboo Watershed. The Jefferson Land Trust (JLT) and the Northwest Watershed Institute (NWI) met with the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and, in part, requested that they be allowed to use part of that match for the Iglitzin Project in order to complete the acquisition; the restoration that was intended to be the acquisition match will still be completed after the acquisition is in place. The BoCC would like the opinion of the JCCF Committee. **Phil Andrus moved to approve of using the banked match to complete the Iglitzin Conservation Easement Project acquisition; Lige Christian seconded.** The JCCF Committee requested a brief history of the Iglitzin Project, which Sarah Spaeth went over. She also clarified that the Navy funding is from the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program, which is a buffering program used by the Department of Defense across the nation by conservation organizations like The Nature Conservancy and land trusts. It is also important to the group that the NWI restoration work for the Iglitzin Project will still be done, even though it will no longer be required for the match funds; Sarah confirmed that the restoration work will be completed after the easement is in place. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Review of Scoring and Ranking, Conflict of Interest

Tami Pokorny distributed the Appearance of Fairness forms and will send out rating sheets in the mail on Wednesday; she will also forward the JCCF Calendar by email.

Election of New Officers

Richard Jahnke moved to nominate David Wilkinson for JCCF Committee Chair; Mary Biskup seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Rob Harbour moved to nominate Lige Christian for JCCF Committee Vice Chair; Scott Brinton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2018 Project Presentations

Chimacum Forest (Short's Forest):

Sarah Spaeth with the JLT gave a presentation on this project. The Chimacum Forest Project was ranked first by the JLT among their projects for this round, partly because it provides a critical missing link between the agricultural valley and the upland forest of the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest Project, the creation of which was awarded funds by the State. The Chimacum Forest Project is a 65-acre acquisition that builds on over 1700 contiguous acres of preserved farm, salmon habitat and forests in the Chimacum watershed. It is forested with mature native species and has a residence that will be used as a caretaker facility and potential office and educational center. The request for JCCF funds is \$140,000, with a total project cost of \$2,092,000. Additional funds are being provided by a US Forest Service Community Forest Grant, Navy REPI funding, private funding and a bargain sale from the landowner. Stewardship for the

project includes noxious weed removal, conservation forestry activities such as thinning and replanting, trail building, and erosion control. The project is feasible because of the willing sellers; match funding secured by the other funding sources; the management of the property that will be secured because of its inclusion in the larger Chimacum Ridge Community Forest Project; and the location of the project, which makes it key to public access and involvement in the Community Forest. Multiple adopted preservation plans have recognized the Ridge and Short's Forest as a priority. Threats to the property include it being listed for sale, resulting in possible fragmentation and residential development, logging of the valuable mature timber onsite, and runoff implications to wildlife. Opportunities from investing in the property include management for wildlife habitat, water quality and silvicultural uses. The educational, forest management, local partnership and recreational potential of the project, along with its key location, give it broad community public benefits. The JCCF Committee discussed the huge investment the project is in the present and future.

Dabob Bay Natural Areas Addition

Peter Bahls with the NWI gave a presentation on this project. He first updated the group on the Tarboo Creek, Farm and Forest Project, which has had its restoration completed; the easement should go through before April 30th, 2018. The Dabob Bay Natural Areas Addition is a 5-acre parcel purchase within a 10,000-acre natural area boundary; close to 4,000 acres have already been protected. It is a project to protect the surrounding ecosystem. The JCCF request is for \$100,000; the total project cost is \$300,000. Match is from a proposed National Coastal Wetlands (NCW) grant, which will be used as leverage for getting a million dollar grant for purchasing more acquisitions in Dabob Bay. Long-term stewardship of the land includes initial restoration by NWI, removing existing buildings, invasive plant control, and transferring the property to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Dabob Bay Natural Area after the restoration is complete. The project is feasible due to the willing landowner and the likely NCW grant match. The property is specifically identified in the Tarboo-Dabob Subarea Plan of the JLT Conservation Plan and is part of The Nature Conservancy-Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Ecoregional Plan. Threats to the property include development, landslides and invasive species. The property is a section of a feeder bluff that forms Long Spit, which supports two globally rare plant communities. The shoreline is part of the largest summer feeding concentration of bald eagles, provides habitat for forage fish and three federally threatened salmon species: Puget Sound winter Steelhead, Puget Sound Chinook and Hood Canal summer Chum, and is a connecting wildlife corridor for multiple wildlife species. The land will be permanently protected from development and offers public access opportunities for kayakers and future DNR hiking trails. The group asked about the eventual transfer to DNR, which will be deeded over to DNR as a donation; the permanent deed restrictions will still protect the property.

Marrowstone Mize

Sarah Spaeth presented on the Marrowstone Mize Preserve Project, which JLT ranked second among their proposed projects for this round. The project would preserve the southern half of the proposed and abandoned Wally Barclay golf course on Marrowstone Island, and would be the first project on the island to be funded by the JCCF Committee. The property is 35 acres comprised of 10 potential residential rights. The acquisition would protect a possible fish-bearing stream, significant wetland complex, farmland soils of prime and statewide importance, and mize soils. The land is in good shape for habitat and agricultural use. The request for JCCF funds is for \$45,000, with a total cost of \$225,000; the match comes from the bargain sale of the conservation easement that the seller is willing to donate. Long-term stewardship of the JLT would include monitoring from professional stewardship staff, risk management, Terra Firma insurance for legal defense of the property, and a rigorous stewardship program that is also working toward a long-term stewardship fund. In terms of feasibility, the landowner is very willing to work with the JLT and donate the conservation easement as match, offering the opportunity to anchor a corridor of farmland and habitat conservation on Marrowstone Island. The property is identified in the JLT's Conservation Plan for Habitat and Farmland, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitats and Species because of the presence of an important freshwater forested shrub. The threat to the property is mainly due to high developmental potential with up to 10 residential units. Habitat is rich, providing for freshwater wetland shrubs, the big brown bat and multiple other wildlife species. Public benefits include the landowner being willing to provide controlled public access as a community resource for walking, nature appreciation and quiet enjoyment; and the wetland that will retain precipitation for recharging groundwater. There is also potential for educational programs with landowner permission reserved in the easement. This is a priority acquisition because of the JLT's long history of working with locals, the landowner willingness, the match being in place, and the minimal request amount.

Ruby Ranch

Sarah Spaeth presented on the Ruby Ranch Preservation Project, which was ranked third by JLT for this round's proposed projects. The project provides permanent protection of 60 acres, one of the larger farms in Beaver Valley, and is also in close proximity to over 1700 acres of preserved working farm and forest -lands. It is protected with a conservation easement that reduces development from three potential residential rights to one. All of the soils on the property are prime and of statewide importance; Chimacum Creek and tributaries also run through the property. The request for JCCF funds is for \$60,000, with a REPI match of \$90,000; the total project cost is \$150,000. The long-term stewardship for the farm is the same as the other JLT projects and includes protection and restoration of Chimacum Creek riparian habitat and buffers, potential pasture improvements, and noxious weed management. Feasibility is due to the willing sellers, who are enthusiastic about reinvesting in farming and becoming full-time farmers; the Navy REPI funding provided as match; and the opportunity to work

with the Jefferson County Conservation District on the Chimacum Creek buffer restoration. The property is part of several adopted preservation plans, including the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan, the American Farmland Trust and JLT's Conservation Plan. Opportunities from protecting the farm include preventing subdivision by reducing the development potential to one residential right, protecting impacts to various wildlife and fish habitat and prime soils, preserving the farmland for agricultural use, and keeping the farm in operation. It would be an area of public benefit and community resource through the farm's participation in the thriving local food economy and culture; the preservation of regionally significant farmland; and the educational potential in coordination with other farmers and possible participation in the annual Farm Tour.

Snow Creek Middle Reach Forest Protection

Sarah Spaeth presented on the Snow Creek Project, which was ranked fourth by the JLT because of the timing of the match funding: a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant is the proposed match for the project, but that will not be determined until December 2018. The project builds on previous protection and restoration efforts by Chumsortium partners, granting agencies in the Snow and Salmon Creeks watersheds. It is located between two existing JLT preserves, providing the critical missing link to add an 8.7-acre acquisition to a 93-acre existing Upper Snow Creek Forest Preserve. The land is forested with mature native species and buffers Snow Creek. The request for JCCF funds is for \$25,385, with a proposed SRFB funding match of \$124,015, for a total project cost of \$149,400. The long-term stewardship is the same as for JLT's other preserves: they would keep the easement and care for the property through their rigorous reserve stewardship program, the Snow Creek Mid Reach Stewardship. This would involve reed canary grass and other noxious weed removal, restoration with partner North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) to restore floodplain connectivity, and installation of large woody debris to address erosion. The project is feasible due to the willing seller, the SRFB application submitted for 83% of the total cost, the Chumsortium partner NOSC that will support restoration activities, and the important missing link the location of the land provides for the Forest Preserve. The property has been identified in adopted preservation plans, including the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Summer Chum Recovery Plan. The threat to the property is that it will otherwise be listed for sale, potentially resulting in subdivision and development of the four platted residential parcels and the harvest of the mature timber onsite. This could exacerbate the sediment loading in Snow Creek that has already been identified as a critical issue for summer Chum. The property supplies habitat for spawning summer Chum, Coho and Steelhead, and various wildlife such as elk, cougar, and possibly Spotted Owls. It provides broad community public benefit through supporting the summer Chum salmon stocks, offering controlled public access, and potential educational and outreach programs.

VII. Other/ Administrative

Staff Update: available funds, membership:
Tami Pokorny will give an update at the next meeting.

VIII. Observer Comments

There were none.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Mary Biskup adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.