



## Jefferson County Conservation Futures Committee

**Special Meeting Wednesday, April 8, 2015**

**6:07 PM - 8:29 PM**

**Tri-Area Community Center Dining Room, Chimacum, WA  
FINAL Minutes**

**\* Decisions and action items are indicated in bold font.**

**Members Present:** Phil Andrus, District 2; Mary Biskup—District 1; Scott Brinton – Agriculture; Lige Christian – District 3; JD Gallant – District 3; Richard Jahnke, Interest – Coastal Areas; Lorna Smith, Chair, Interest – Ecotourism; Jerry Gorsline – District 2; Rob Harbour, Interest – Working Lands; Craig Schrader, Interest – Climate Change; Sarah Spaeth, Interest – Jefferson Land Trust (JLT)

**Members Absent:** Ray Hunter, Interest – Fallow Farms

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

**Guests:** Barbara McColgan-Pastore, member of the public

I. Call to Order:

Chair Lorna Smith called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM. The committee was introduced to Mary Biskup, who shared her history with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy in Fresno County, California.

II. Approval of Minutes:

**The final minutes of the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 meeting were accepted by consensus as written. The minutes of the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting were preliminarily approved by consensus.**

III. Review of Agenda:

**The agenda was approved by consensus.**

IV. Observer comments: Barbara McColgan-Pastore spoke as a member of the public in support of the use of conservation futures funds for a conservation easement on the Bishop Dairy Farm.

V. Old Business:

Available funds were discussed, confirming \$203,000 available. The Department of Health has received approval to manage the Fund beginning later this year.

## VI. New Business

### Election of New Officers

**Lorna Smith was nominated to continue as chair; the motion was seconded and passed with all in favor. When Janet Kearsley resigned from the committee, she held the position of vice-chair. Rob Harbour was nominated as vice chair; the motion was seconded and passed with all in favor. The committee discussed and agreed to continue to rotate chairs.**

### Review of Scoring and Ranking Timeline and Protocol

**Please call or email Tami Pokorny with any questions for sponsors or project proponents by April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.** Sponsor responses to questions are due back to Tami by April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The Rank and Review Meeting will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015, so **score sheets are due to Tami by the 27<sup>th</sup>.** Tami will email score sheets tomorrow. The committee reviewed ranking questions and scoring methods.

### 2015 Project Presentations (See also PowerPoints, attached)

#### Lower Big Quilcene River Riparian Protection (Polson Acquisition)

CF Request: \$31,440 (\$25,515 Acquisition/\$5,925 O & M)

Sarah Spaeth gave a presentation on the acquisition, which would protect 14.16 acres in the Big Quilcene River watershed and builds on previous protection and restoration efforts by partners Skokomish Tribe, Jefferson County and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group. The land is to be maintained in its natural state and provides great salmon spawning grounds, wildlife habitat for endangered, threatened and sensitive species and fishing access for the local community. The request is for \$31,440 from conservation futures, with a match requirement sought from SRFB; the SRFB grant is already in place. Plans for the property are some restoration work and noxious weed removal, with the possibility of transfer of ownership to the Skokomish Tribe with deed restrictions. Some concern was voiced over how the transfer might affect public fishing access. The area is identified in the Summer Chum Recovery Plan, Critical Areas Ordinances for Watershed Protection, JLT's Conservation Plan, and others. The threat to the property is that it is currently for sale. It is a priority acquisition.

#### Midori Farm

CF Request: \$94,626 (\$92,806 Acquisition/\$1,820 O & M)

Sarah Spaeth presented this project which would protect 29.13 acres of organically managed farmland in Quilcene near the Little Quilcene River through a conservation easement. The farm is adjacent to Serendipity, Little Quilcene and Plum Wild Farms, and considered part of the "Quilcene Farm Center" as conceived by the land trust and landowners. The request is for \$94,626 from Conservation Futures; the total project cost estimate is \$189,252. The property is a high priority for farm preservation as the landowners are willing to consider a bargain sale to provide match. The sale of a

conservation will reduce the farm's debt and allow the owners to invest in infrastructure. The adjacent property is for sale and proposed for subdivision. The Midori acreage is part of several adopted preservation plans, including JLT's conservation plan and The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Assessment. The property provides wildlife habitat for endangered, threatened and sensitive species, including coho and cutthroat immediately downstream and for possible spotted owl use. Farmland preservation values and broad community public benefit make this a priority acquisition.

#### Bishop Dairy Acquisition

CF Request: \$56,225 (\$0 O & M)

Sarah Spaeth gave a presentation on this acquisition, which would protect 264 acres of the last operating large dairy farm in Jefferson County through a conservation easement. Values of the property include Chimacum Creek habitat, scenic vistas, historic relevance to the community, an existing conservation easement, critical salmon and swan habitat, and productive soils. The request is for \$56,225 from Conservation Futures; the total project cost is \$949,950, with contributing grants from State Farmland Preservation in summer 2015 and federal funding in 2016. JLT would hold the easement in perpetuity. The property is part of adopted preservation plans, including JLT's conservation plan and the Hood Canal Summer Chum Recovery Plan. Zoning and existing platted parcels would allow for up to an additional seven home sites and fragmentation. The landowner is also nearing retirement and needs to resolve estate planning. With coho spawning and rearing habitat, an existing riparian conservation easement and riparian corridor planting also on the property, the acquisition would balance habitat and agriculture. The salmon and farming values, broad community public benefit, community resource and on-site facilities make this a priority acquisition for the land trust.

#### Quimper Wildlife Corridor

CF Request: \$15,626 (\$12,626 Acquisition/\$12,626 O & M)

Sarah Spaeth presented on this project, which is adjacent to protected properties and is part of Cappy's Woods and Trails, a highly valued local trail access in the community within the Quimper Wildlife Corridor. The request is for \$15,626 from conservation futures for the fee simple acquisition of five parcels, with land owned by JLT to contribute as match. The Corridor is identified in adopted preservation plans, including the City of Port Townsend Comprehensive Plan for Stormwater, Floodplain and Urban Habitat Protection and Critical Areas Ordinances for Wetland Protection, and was recognized for its bike trails and contributed to *Bike Magazine* naming Port Townsend one of the five best mountain biking towns in the country. Stretching all the way across the peninsula, the Corridor is part of the largest swath of forest in the City of Port Townsend and provides valuable wildlife habitat for endangered, threatened and sensitive species. It also makes up the largest drainage basin for the City. The eager-to-sell landowner, broad community public benefit and wildlife habitat make this a priority acquisition.

Total available Conservation Futures funds come to \$203,000, with project requests summing to \$197,917.

12

VII. Other/ Administrative

Staff Update: Membership, Projects, Outreach:

Two seats on the Conservation Futures committee are about to expire, or have expired; JD Gallant's seat expires on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, but he intends to stay on the committee; Richard Jahnke's seat just expired and Tami Pokorny will advertise for it. **She has no outreach plans currently, so if anyone has any ideas, let Tami know.** Suggestions included a short film about Conservation Futures, or a feature on the local radio show Nature Now; Kate Dwyer is the contact. **It was decided that Tami will give Lorna Smith a paragraph or 2 about the committee that Kate could perhaps read on the air.** Sarah Spaeth gave an update on the Snow Creek project.

VIII. Observer Comments

None

IX. Adjournment

Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM.

APPROVED

R. Harbour

10/6/15

Rob Harbour Vice Chair