

MEETING MINUTES

Land Bank Commission Meeting August 21, 2020 Virtual Skype Meeting

Commission Members in Attendance:

Jim Skoog, District 1, position 1 Sandi Friel, District 2, position 2 Miles Becker, District 3, position 3 Brian Wiese, at large, position 4 Doug Strandberg, at large, position 5 David Meiland, at large, position 6 Christa Campbell, at large, position 7

Commission Members Absent:

Land Bank Staff in Attendance: Charlie Behnke, Lincoln Bormann, Judy Cumming, Peter Guillozet, Eliza Habegger, Erin Halcomb, Doug McCutchen, Eric Nelson, Kayla Seaforth, Amanda Wedow, Tanja Williamson

Land Bank Staff Absent: Sarah Benson

County Council Liaison: Absent

County Manager: Mike Thomas

Public in Attendance: eleven individuals over the course of the meeting.

Topic	Key Discussion Points & Agreements
Call to Order 8:30 am	Chair, Christa Campbell, called the meeting to order.
Public Comment 8:30 am	Christa asked for public comments. There were none.
Adoption of Minutes 10:32 am	The July 17, 2020 minutes were reviewed. There were no corrections.
	ACTION: Jim Skoog moved to accept the July 17, 2020 LBC meeting minutes. David Meiland seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair and Commissioner's Report 8:33 am Council Update 8:34 am	Christa opened the floor for Chair and Commissioner comments. Christa asked about the 2020 Land Trust Alliance Rally. Erin said the dates are October 6-8 and it is virtual. Lincoln noted there were some good topics and suggested commissioners take a look to see if there were any seminars they'd like to take. Sandi noted the real estate market is hot. Bill Watson was not in attendance.
Finance 8:35 am	Lincoln said he will be adding a consultant position and alerted the Commission that they will see another amended budget in September, which will then be sent to County Council in October. Doug Strandberg noted the July real estate excise tax (REET) revenue was the highest it's ever been at \$653k, and believed the Land Bank may be on track for a \$4M annual revenue. This is also good news for the Home Fund REET. He reported that the local government investment pool (LGIP) interest rate is horrible. Mike Thomas shared that the Home Fund has already reached its budget for 2020. He also noted that the County will have to make significant budget cuts and that the Economic Development Council (EDC) will distribute \$150k of the County's \$950k Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to small businesses.
Director's Report	Spencer Spit Addition - Background: This 20-acre shoreline property is north of
8:49 am	the State Park with exceptional views across Lopez Sound. It is also highly visible to
Lopez Island	travelers on the ferry. The Land Bank has purchased 10 acres in a bargain sale with the owner donating proceeds to the Lopez Community Land Trust (LCLT). Washington State Parks is working on acquiring the other parcel and has received a grant for the purchase. The Land Bank would flip its ownership in exchange for a Conservation Easement (CE) on both parcels. Current: Lincoln is still working with Parks on this concept.
	Davis Bay Farm Property – Background: This is a 24-acre parcel on the east side of Richardson Marsh on Lopez. The San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) has been working on a project to protect the marsh in its entirety and currently holds CE's on some of the surrounding properties. Lincoln said the subject parcel is a great spot for bird watching, and would be a good general viewpoint for cyclists. The purchase price is \$75k, which is below market value. SJPT would hold a CE. Current: Lincoln said SJPT is going ahead with the marsh protection/restoration project and he would like to add this project back into the budget. This parcel would be the public access part for the whole project.
Lopez Island continued	Hunter Bay CE – Background: This 4-acre parcel has 600 feet of beach shoreline and is in an area with a high priority for protection to assist with salmon recovery efforts. The Land Bank applied for a salmon recovery grant. Current: The Land Bank was unsuccessful in securing salmon recovery funds for this project. Lincoln said the state wanted evidence of forage fish spawning, but there hasn't been any sampling in the area, so this winter we will sample for forage fish and re-apply for the funds next year.

San Juan Island Beaverton Marsh Access Property – Background: At the same time the Land Bank purchased the Taylor property in 2019, the conservation donors also bought a 5-acre parcel adjacent to Linde Field in order to provide a trail corridor from the fields to Beaverton Marsh Preserve. Current: Lincoln walked the property and suggested widening the corridor slightly. This project would entail a \$25k payment and a land trade to ensure the area of the private parcel wouldn't be under 5 acres. Orcas Island Olga Store Historic Preservation Easement – Background: The group that bought the Olga Store would like to put a historic preservation easement (HPE) on the property. Boyd Pratt has researched the historical elements of the structure, noting that the East and South side are largely unaltered and key architectural details should be protected. Current: The group from Olga approached the Land Bank for an ask of \$150k for the easement. Brian stated he would like more information. Lincoln said he would forward the assessment from Boyd. There was consensus from the Commission to continue and gather more facts for the project. **ACTION:** Lincoln will forward Boyd Pratt's assessment to the commissioners. Erin noted that she's received approximately 20 comments so far on the Zylstra Lake **Stewardship Report** 9:05 am Interim draft Stewardship Management Plan. Doug Strandberg asked if there

Zylstra Lake Preserve

Interim draft Stewardship Management Plan. Doug Strandberg asked if there comments regarding water access and Erin said yes. Moving forward, Erin and Tanja will work on talking points regarding safety. Brian noted the blue-green algae issue is important. Jim expressed kudos to the work the stewardship staff has been doing to get the preserve open. Well done, Doug, Charlie and Kayla! David Meiland agreed that we must be very clear with the public regarding water access and suggested a sign be put near the dam that says "you're standing here now but in winter it's underwater." Sandi noted this as a good opportunity to remind people to think about the importance of water quality.

Hunting Update

Amanda reported that Lopez Hill Preserve will be open for hunting starting September 1st and new this year; written permission will be required. Doug said hunting at Mount Grant Preserve will occur in the same timeframe as Lopez Hill and that we continue to partner with the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) program. Hunting will be allowed in an approximate 100-acre area in the Western Basin of the Preserve, which does include part of the Newt Pond Trail but not the other trails or roads on the Preserve. He has placed a Caution – Hunting Zone sign and hunter orange vests at the closest trailhead. Doug noted the written permission requirement makes it difficult to give more management to WDFW. Christa asked about hunting at other suggested properties. Doug noted that is usually something that comes up during the management plan process. He also noted that how the hunting policy is communicated will be important. Additionally, he would like to clarify that the weapons allowed by County ordinance are only effective within 40 yards. Lincoln asked if the Commission wants an official hunting policy and Jim replied he would. Miles asked if hunters could provide information on how many deer were harvested. Christa suggested that these were two good topics for the communication committee to research: 1) Developing a hunting policy, and; 2) Educating the public regarding the policy.

	<u>ACTION</u> : Tanja will add developing a hunting policy and educating the public regarding policy to communications committee topic list.
Outreach Report 9:35 am	In addition to the monthly written report, Tanja said she will meet with a visiting group of students from Unleash the Brilliance, a program for high school environmental leaders living in urban areas, to host an Invasive European Green Crab monitoring workshop. Unleash the Brilliance is working with local non-profit Salish Sea Sciences to connect the student's world in the Green-Duwamish watershed area with the larger picture that is the Salish Sea.
Future Agenda Items	Christa –outreach/communication assessment Lincoln – Zylstra interim SMP and engaging CART Brian – emails regarding hunting
Public Comment 9:30 am	Christa noted that more people had joined the meeting and opened up public comment again. Nancy Greene commented she was very interested in Zylstra Lake Preserve and appreciated all the work that was being done there.
Executive Session 9:40 am – 10:18 am	The Land Bank Commission met in executive session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price. The meeting was extended once, from 10:00 am – 10:20 am. The meeting came out of executive session at 10:18 am.
Meeting Adjourned 10:18 am	Chair, Christa Campbell, adjourned the meeting.
NEXT MEETING	The next LBC meeting is scheduled to take place September 18, 2020 via Skype.