



MEETING MINUTES

Conservation Land Bank Commission Meeting

June 16, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Craft Room @ Mullis Community Senior Center & Zoom

Commission Members in Attendance:

Marilyn O'Connor, District 1, position 1

Peggy Bill, District 3, position 3

Brian Wiese, at large, position 4

Amy Trainer, at large, position 6

Christa Campbell, at large, position 7

Commission Members Absent: Sandi Friel, District 2, position 2; Mike Pickett, at large, position 5

Land Bank Staff in Attendance: Shauna Barrows, Lincoln Bormann, Peter Guillozet, Eliza Habegger, Erin Halcomb, Andrew Jansen, Aaron Rock, Tanja Williamson

Land Bank Staff Absent: Charlie Behnke, Doug McCutchen, Jacob Wagner, Amanda Wedow

County Council Liaison: Christine Minney

Management Analyst: Absent

Public in Attendance: 5 individuals over the course of the meeting.

Topic	Key Discussion Points & Agreements
Call to Order 8:35 am	Chair, Christa Campbell, called the meeting to order.
Public Comment 8:36 am	None
Adoption of Minutes 8:37 am	The draft April 21, 2023, minutes were reviewed. There were corrections. Minutes were approved with corrections.
Chair and Commissioner's Report 8:41 am	Marilyn highlighted preserves she visited and events she attended, including a tour of the North Shore property and tabling at the June San Juan Island Farmers Market. Brian tabled at the Orcas Farmers Market and had good feedback from the public. He would like to have Land Bank merch. He also attended a ceremony welcoming the

Chair and Commissioner's Report continued	<p>Salmon back to Cascade Creek, Coho Preserve, hosted by Erin Licata and Sam Barr (Samish), which honored Jerry Weatherman, volunteer steward, and fish biologist Jenny de Groot. Christa tabled at the Lopez Farmers Market and had good feedback on the 2021 Annual Report. She spent a day with the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC). Peggy worked on the new Spencer Spit Preserve trail and expressed kudos to Amanda on its location/creation. Peggy noted hearing continued confusion regarding Town to Zylstra trail and that it is a Public Works project, not Land Bank.</p>
Partner Update – San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) 8:49 am	<p>Director, Angela Anderson, noted that SJPT did receive the full \$2.1M request from the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) fund. They are anticipating a grant agreement from RCO late this summer or early fall which will lay out steps to incorporate in the North Shore CE. She thanked everyone who helped get PSAR fully funded. Angela would like to arrange a tour for supporters to tour the North Shore property.</p> <p>The Cady Mountain campaign is still underway. SJPT still needs to raise \$247K to secure a full match. The funds need to in hand by October 31, 2023.</p> <p>The Island Marble Butterfly plots at the Frazer Preserve had over 49 eggs/larvae – three times the amount from last year! The butterfly is on the move to other locations as well. Great news!</p> <p>Improvements have been made at the Preservation Trust's Ihiya Preserve, which the Land Bank holds a CE on. Trails have been moved to avoid wet areas, invasive species removed, and overall trail maintenance completed.</p> <p>Lastly, she commented the the Summer Social will be hosted at the John O. Linde Community Park and will highlight the Beaverton Marsh Preserve partner project with the Land Bank. The event will be held August 5th. She looks forward to Land Bank Commissioners and staff attending as well.</p> <p>Christa noted it's been difficult to get the quarterly SJPT/Land Bank meetings back on track – scheduling issues. Christa and Lincoln will work on updating representatives.</p>
Council Liaison 8:59 am	<p>Christine Minney highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environmental Stewardship and Solid Waste Program is assessing the disposal of tire waste needs of the County. • Christine gave a presentation to the Town of Friday Harbor Council regarding affordable housing. County Council is considering a .001% sales tax increase to further support affordable housing. • Last year the County awarded \$3,500,000 across the three main islands from the Affordable Housing REET. For 2023, the Council decided rather than open a completely new funding round, they will fund projects that weren't fully funded the year prior.

Council Liaison continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Guillozet gave a fantastic update of the North Shore Property at last week's County Council meeting on Orcas. She noted Barbara Rosenkotter from SJPT was also in attendance.
Financial Update 8:59 am	Aaron noted nothing to report this month; full quarterly report in July.
Director's Report 9:05 am	Lincoln highlighted that WWRC hosted their quarterly board meeting in the San Juans. WWRC advocates for funding to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Fund which funds various County projects through a competitive grant process. For the biennium, the legislature allocated \$120M for projects across the state; a record amount. Lincoln took the board to Mount Grant, Deadman Bay, Fisherman Bay Spit, and Channel Preserves, all of which received WWRP funding.
Strategic Planning Update	Lincoln spoke with the consultant, Triangle Associates, about changes in their scope, including adding an introductory meeting at the beginning of the process, which they are doing. There was a good discussion about follow up; especially how to get community input on the strategic plan. A few ideas were discussed, but no decision confirmed. Initially the consultants will focus on holding conversations with key community members to jumpstart outreach. Lincoln suggested the County's "Engage Platform" as a follow up to survey the broader community. He is working on finalizing the contract, and Triangle should be attending the Commission meeting in July to kick things off.
Stewardship Report 9:15 am	Lincoln noted that this is an introductory discussion and that Staff would come back with more information and detail at a future meeting. He did mention several activities the Land Bank is taking to reduce wildfire risk including: 1) invasive species removal (as some species are quite flammable such as Scot's Broom; 2) Creating a shaded fuel break demonstration area on Turtleback. This is a recommended strategy in forest lands as climate is expected to get warmer and drier in summer; thinning work, mostly around Garry oak areas currently. Expansion depends on funding, and; 3) Land acquisition. Lincoln noted that the fires in the County almost always start on private lands. Activity around homesites, such as sparks from mowing, runaway campfires and burn piles, or electrical malfunctions is the origin of many fires. Conserving larger areas and helping contain human activity to other areas is a highly effective strategy to help deal with wildfire risk.
Management for Climate Resilience/Wildfire Risk	Brian asked if the topic would be included in the strategic plan process. Lincoln noted yes, it's important for the public to weigh in on it.
Management for Climate Resilience/Wildfire Risk	Christa remarked there was a discussion around setting money aside for fire risk assessment in the past. Lincoln noted this feeds into other efforts that are happening. There is a Wildfire Protection Plan for the County. Erin said there is an effort underway between the Conservation District and the County to identify funding to update that plan. Having a plan in place allows access to grant money. Peter agreed with Lincoln and noted the Land Bank can position itself to get more funding by

Management for Climate Resilience/Wildfire Risk continued	<p>prioritizing our forests, such as conducting forest assessments, which have been done on various Orcas preserves, including Turtleback Mountain.</p> <p>Marilyn asked if there is a standardized approach to the issue on the Land Bank's larger forested preserves. Lincoln noted that it depends on specific site conditions, but that treatment for at risk areas would be similar.</p> <p>Christa suggested bringing the topic back for more discussion in the August meeting.</p> <p>Erin pointed out there are many noxious weeds in the understory which make up "ladder fuel," such as Holly and English ivy, as well as Scot's broom, which was mentioned earlier. Going after the weeds when we first take on a Preserve, as Peter has been doing most recently with North Shore, is a great high priority first step.</p>
Break 9:32 am – 9:43 am	
Stewardship Report continued 9:43 am	<p>Christa asked for comments regarding the Stewardship Report. Marilyn noted that what happens in the report is what holds the organization together. It's wonderful! Marilyn also asked how the Land Bank finds volunteers.</p> <p>Tanja answered that many volunteers come via peoples' connections with the stewards. She noted that SJI has begun posting volunteer opportunities at preserve kiosks, an idea Doug suggested and implemented. Opportunities are also posted to the online calendar, e-newsletters, social media posts, and outreach events. Brian suggested adding names to photo captions when possible. Tanja reported producing community outreach kits for information booths that can live on each island. They will be used at the farmers' markets and other community events. She highlighted upcoming events and volunteer work parties and noted the communications committee has been talking about messaging.</p>
Outreach and Volunteer Report 9:53 am Summary/Analytics/Calendar of Outreach Efforts	<p>Tanja highlighted upcoming events: First Saturday Farmers Market, North Shore Tours, Guided Hike at Watmough Bay, The County Fair (Dancing with the Steers). She has started working on posting the Stewardship Reports to the website.</p> <p>Tanja presented reports printed from the email outreach (mailchimp). Overall, the email open rates are good in comparison to average. She will look at social media summary reports next. The Commission also has an overview of 2022 and 2023 planned outreach events. There was discussion regarding how to reach community – a common theme in most County organizations and boards. Tanja will ask for "click-thrus" from County website and online ads.</p>
Second Public Comment 10:06 am	Kathy Morris commented on noxious weeds and shared her philosophy.
Meeting Adjourned 10:12 am	Chair, Christa Campbell adjourned the meeting.
NEXT MEETING	The next LBC meeting is scheduled to take place July 21, 2023.