



## MEETING MINUTES

### Conservation Land Bank Commission Meeting

September 15, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

San Juan Island Grange

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Marilyn O'Connor, District 1, position 1

Sandi Friel, District 2, position 2

Peggy Bill, District 3, position 3

Brian Wiese, at large, position 4

Mike Pickett, at large, position 5

**Commission Members Absent:** Christa Campbell, at large, position 7; Amy Trainer, at large, position 6

**Land Bank Staff in Attendance:** Shauna Barrows, Charlie Behnke, Lincoln Bormann, Eliza Habegger, Erin Halcomb, Aaron Rock, Amanda Wedow, Tanja Williamson

**Land Bank Staff Absent:** Peter Guillozet, Doug McCutchen, Jacob Wagner,

**County Council Liaison:** Absent

**Public in Attendance:** 9 individuals over the course of the meeting.

Topic	Key Discussion Points & Agreements
<b>Call to Order</b> 8:33 am	Vice-Chair, Brian Wiese, called the meeting to order.
<b>Public Comment</b> 8:33 am	Kathy Morris alerted the Land Bank to the <a href="#">Tilth Conference</a> in Port Townsend happening October 26-28.
<b>Adoption of Minutes</b> 8:37 am	The draft August 18, 2023, minutes were reviewed. There were corrections. Minutes were approved with corrections.
<b>Chair and Commissioner's Report</b> 8:34 am	Brian thanked Amanda and Peggy for an informative guided walk around Watmough Bay Preserve Addition. Marilyn thanked Amanda for an enjoyable tour of the new Spencer Spit Preserve.

<b>Partner Update – San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT)</b> 8:39 am	Special Projects Director, Kathleen Foley Lewis, highlighted fundraising efforts for their Cady Mountain Addition Conservation Easement (CE) and the deadline for contributions to be matched. Total outstanding is \$244K and she noted the match deadline is October 21st. If \$122K is raised by that deadline, their goal will be met. SJPT will be sending their annual fundraising campaign letter in November and the North Shore Property will be featured.
<b>Council Liaison</b> 8:45 am	Christine Minney was called away last minute and unavailable.
<b>Financial Update Proposed 2024-2025 Biennium Budget</b> 8:45 am	<p>Lincoln answered questions regarding Entrance Mountain and Alderman property resale line items. Marilyn suggested a finance memo version that is public friendly. Sandi agreed and added the suggestion of a glossary for acronyms.</p> <p>There was a request from commissioners to schedule time with Aaron to learn how the budget process works.</p> <p>Lincoln presented and reviewed the <a href="#">Proposed 2024-2025 Biennium Budget</a> with the Commission. He noted the quick turnaround in putting the budget together and anticipated coming back to the Commission in October for final approval. There was discussion.</p>
<b>Open Public Hearing</b> 9:31 am  <b>Closed Public Hearing</b> 9:35 am	<p>Judy Cumming noted she has always been so impressed with staff and commission involvement in the budget. She had a comment regarding how previous years were zero-ed out. Aaron noted that the worksheet from the auditor's office zero's out the line item. Aaron agreed it would be more representative with previous years included. She also commented on the inclusion of the Land Bank ordinance in project descriptions.</p>
<b>Proposed 2024-2025 Budget Discussion Continued</b> 9:35 am	<p>Sandi had a question regarding language included in the Table of Contents regarding the auditor making changes to the Land Bank budget. Aaron said the statement refers to payroll insurance and IT costs. Lincoln suggested editing the language to be more specific. Sandi suggested using the verbiage from the ordinance. There was discussion regarding process of resale properties and a question regarding Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) revenue and expenditures across the districts.</p> <p>Brian stated the fee acquisition summary list is very useful.</p>
<b>Director's Report</b> 9:46 am  Continued Discussion of Options for Watmough Addition Property	<p>Presentation from Brie Chartier, San Juan Islands National Monument Manager</p> <p>Peggy said that initially it was understood if the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) took ownership the Chadwick cabin would have to be moved. Brie noted that after attending the Land Bank's September 8<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting on Lopez, and hearing the community's comments regarding the cabin, the BLM will make every effort to honor the cabin's history and wholeness of the setting and hopes to find alternative solutions.</p> <p>Peggy asked if collaborative opportunities were possible and if Brie had any examples. Brie noted most relevant to the Coast Salish here would be the co-stewardship in place at <a href="#">Bears Ears National Monument</a>. She highlighted there will be discussion around this type of model internally in the next few weeks. Brie is open to brainstorming and collaborating.</p>

Continued Discussion of Options for Watmough Addition Property	<p>Mike asked for clarification regarding environment analysis and timing.</p> <p>Sandi asked if BLM monument lands that host historic structures or would this be an exception to be created. Brie said yes, there are two historic lighthouses and those would be good models for managing the historic cabin. Sandi also asked about Brie's idea regarding housing. Brie sees the cabin site as a possible location lay a slab that could host seasonal employee trailers and allowing for on-site presence. How to implement would need to be worked out.</p>
Public Comment	<p>Tino Villaluz, Wildlife Program Manager at Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, commented he looks forward to being more involved and will dive deeper into the management plan and process.</p> <p>Tracey Cottingham shared on September 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a virtual Monument Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting. She liked what she heard from Brie, as well as collaborative ideas from Peggy and working with community members. She cutout while talking about Patos lighthouse management.</p>
Commission Discussion Continued	<p>Brian highlighted the Land Bank will accept written public comment through the Friday, October 13 (a week before the October monthly commission meeting).</p> <p>Marilyn asked about timeline regarding resale decision and grant acceptance deadline. Lincoln noted he will confirm timing with Washington Recreation and Conservation Office. Brian looks forward to more input from tribes and thanked Tino for attending today's meeting. There was discussion regarding grant acceptance options.</p>
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b> 11:15 am	Vice-Chair, Brian Wiese adjourned the meeting.
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	The next LBC meeting is scheduled to take place October 20, 2023, at the San Juan Island Grange.