



MEETING MINUTES

Conservation Land Bank Commission Meeting

April 19, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Lopez Island Family Resource Center

Commission Members in Attendance:

Marilyn O'Connor, District 1, position 1
 Ann Marie Shanks, District 2, position 2
 Peggy Bill, District 3, position 3
 Brian Wiese, at large, position 4

Mike Pickett, at large, position 5
 Amy Trainer, at large, position 6
 Tim Clark, at large, position 7

Commission Members Absent: None

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

Land Bank Staff Absent: Peter Guillozet, Erin Halcomb, Tyler Goodman, Jacob Wagner

County Council Liaison: Christine Minney

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

Topic	Key Discussion Points & Agreements
Call to Order 8:30 am	Vice-Chair, Peggy Bill, called the meeting to order.
Public Comment 8:31am (0:57)	Tracey Cottingham welcomed the Commission to Lopez. Roger Ellison, San Juan Island Grange President, noted this was his first time attending a Land Bank Commission meeting and interested in how it all works.
Adoption of Minutes 8:32 am (2:09)	The draft March 15, 2024, minutes were reviewed. There were corrections. Minutes were approved.
Partner Update – San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) 8:35 am (2:59)	None

<p>Council Liaison 8:38 am (3:25)</p>	<p>Christine Minney gave the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Hazardous Waste Round-Up is coming up in May, 10:00am to 2:00pm at the solid waste facilities on San Juan (May 4), Lopez (May 11), and Orcas Islands (June 1). An event will also be hosted on Decatur Island on June 15, with the location and time to be announced at a later date. • San Juan County Health Officer, Dr. Frank James, retired after 31 years of service. His last day will be April 20. San Juan County Council appointed Dr. Herbie Duber as the County’s new acting Health Officer. • Great Islands Clean Up takes place tomorrow, April 20, county-wide. • County Council approved \$45k to the three family resource centers for emergency rental assistance and approved using some affordable housing funds to reimburse the resource centers for additional rental assistance as needed. The Council approved \$109k for the senior and disabled rental subsidy program. Rental assistance needs have grown recently. • The search for a new county manager is progressing well.
<p>Chair and Commissioner’s Report 8:40 am (9:34)</p>	<p>Tim attended the Climate and Sustainability virtually. He noted there was a glitch with the Teams software, he could hear the meeting but was unable to speak. The committee is looking for climate ambassadors to help with the upcoming climate resilience planning and community survey. Tim also participated in the Agricultural Lease Committee.</p> <p>Brian shared that he, Anne Marie and Tyler will table at Earth Day Orcas hosted by San Juan Makers Guild. He also encouraged everyone to attend Gathering of the Eagles Canoe Journey events coming up in May. On Orcas, there will be a street fair in Olga and a guided walk at Coho Preserve. Lastly, Brian reported a nonprofit led by former Lummi Nation chairman, Jay Julius, acquired 2.14 acres of ancestral land next to Madrona Point. The land will ultimately be turned over to the Lummi Nation.</p> <p>Doug shared he will attend an upcoming Coast Salish Camas Bake Event</p> <p>Peggy noted the San Juan Preservation Trust will hold their annual meeting May 9 at the San Juan Island Yacht Club.</p>
<p>Financial Report 8:49 am (18:43)</p>	<p>Aaron gave a Q1 financial report. There was discussion.</p>
<p>Director’s Report 9:13 am (42:42)</p> <p>Draft Strategic Plan Update and MythBusters Presentation</p>	<p>Lincoln summarized updated Draft Strategic Plan after incorporating comments from County Council. Lincoln gave a power point presentation titled “MythBusters” focused on addressing misinformation with facts.</p>

Break 10:07 am – 10:15 am (1:36:11)	
Ag Lease Review 10:16 am (0:36)	Charlie met with the Ag Lease Proposal Review Committee, and after reviewing all applicants, the committee recommended The Shephard Family Farms for Frazer Homestead Preserve and the San Juan Island Grange Overmarsh Commons for Beaverton Marsh Preserve. There was discussion. Mike Pickett proposed approval of the proposals subject to final negotiations on lease details and the leases will come back to the commission and the County Council for final approval. There was consensus.
Executive Session 10:37 am – 11:05 am (22:45)	As per RCW 42.30.110 1.(i), to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation.
Outreach/Communications Report 11:19 am (22:51)	Tanja highlighted upcoming events including Great Islands Clean Up; a trail building workshop and trail building volunteer work parties; and guided walks. Marilyn reported the communications sub-committee met on April 14 and reviewed the website for improvements and easier maneuverability.
Stewardship Report 11:38 am (27:28) Richardson Marsh Stewardship and Management Plan (SMP)	Amanda received five public comments to the Draft Richardson Marsh Preserve SMP, and based on those, a few changes were made to emphasize research and studying of the marsh. There was discussion. Consensus was the draft SMP was good. She also reported on the Watmough Bay Preserve Addition Scoping meeting held on March 19. There were 25 attendees and the meeting was open house style. Amanda posted questions on the walls and attendees used post it notes to leave comments. She provided a summary which she will use to write the Draft Watmough Bay Preserve SMP. A suggestion was made regarding the potential of writing an interim SMP and opening the preserve this year versus 2025. There was discussion regarding bi-lingual preserve naming. Amy noted the Port of Seattle and City of Seattle have both gone through the process and may be good examples.
Public Comment 10:24 am (44:31)	Kathy Morris commented on the use of conservation easements and had a suggestion about leasees. She views leasees as land stewards and their job is to take care of the land. Her suggestion is to have leasees present at the Ag Summit.
Meeting Adjourned 11:49 am	Vice-chair, Peggy Bill, adjourned the meeting.
NEXT MEETING	The next LBC meeting is scheduled to take place May 17, 2024, at the San Juan Island Grange.