



## MEETING MINUTES

### Conservation Land Bank Commission Meeting March 15, 2024 Hybrid Meeting San Juan Island Grange

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Marilyn O'Connor, District 1, position 1  
 Ann Marie Shanks, District 2, position 2  
 Peggy Bill, District 3, position 3

Mike Pickett, at large, position 5  
 Tim Clark, at large, position 7

**Commission Members Absent:** Brian Wiese, at large, position 4, Amy Trainer, at large, position 6

**Land Bank Staff in Attendance:** Charlie Behnke, Lincoln Bormann, Peter Guillozet, Erin Halcomb, Doug McCutchen, Aaron Rock, Amanda Wedow, Jacob Wagner, Tanja Williamson

**Land Bank Staff Absent:** Shauna Barrows, Tyler Goodman, Eliza Habegger

**County Council Liaison:** Christine Minney

**Public in Attendance:** 18 individuals over the course of the meeting.

Topic	Key Discussion Points & Agreements
<b>Call to Order</b> 8:33 am	Vice-Chair, Peggy Bill, called the meeting to order.
<b>Public Comment</b> 8:34am (1:25)	There was none.
<b>Adoption of Minutes</b> 8:34 am (1:38)	The draft February 16, 2024, minutes were reviewed. There were corrections. Minutes were approved.
<b>Partner Update – San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT)</b> 8:35 am (2:24)	Conservation Director, Vickie Edwards, reported the Cady Mountain Preserve Conservation Easement closed. The Preservation Trust will hold their annual meeting on May 9 <sup>th</sup> at the San Juan Island Yacht Club and their summer social on July 20 <sup>th</sup> at the North Shore Preserve.

<p><b>Council Liaison</b> 8:38 am (6:16)</p>	<p>Christine Minney gave the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <a href="#">Great Islands Clean-Up</a> is Saturday, April 20th.</li> <li>• Orcas Recycling Services (ORS) and The Exchange will collect hazardous waste at the Orcas Transfer Station on Saturday March 23rd, from 10am to 2pm. The event is free to all Orcas households (businesses need to contact them directly)</li> <li>• Health &amp; Community Services (HCS) and <a href="#">Fish for Teeth</a> are partnering to launch a new dental program which serves Medicaid and uninsured residents on San Juan Island. Community dental clinics are available for those on Apple Health or uninsured and unable to afford dental care. Dates for Orcas Island community dental clinics are still pending and will be announced as soon as they are finalized. Lopez, Shaw, and other island residents are welcome to travel to Friday Harbor or Orcas Community Dental clinics. The upcoming clinic dates for San Juan Island are: Saturday, April 20 and Saturday, June 8</li> <li>• San Juan County is accepting applications for two positions on its <a href="#">Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee</a>: A member from District 3 (Lopez/Shaw) - 4-year term and a youth member (age 16-19) – 2-year term. Interested applicants should complete the application on the County’s website.</li> <li>• The County launched a <a href="#">Communications Survey</a> to understand how residents engage with the news around them. The <a href="#">anonymous survey</a> will help the County tailor its communications methods to fit your needs. The survey is online on the County’s engage platform.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chair and Commissioner’s Report</b> 8:45 am (12:43)</p>	<p>Marilyn reported that she and Mike met with the communications sub-committee and welcomed Anne Marie who replaces Sandi Friel.</p> <p>Tim signed up as the Land Bank’s liaison to the Climate and Sustainability Committee.</p> <p>Peggy attended the March 2024 Ag Summit on Orcas Island and complimented Shauna on her “lightening” talk on Basalt. She also toured North Shore Preserve with Tyler, and noted Tim was also present. While at the summit Peggy noted she had a great conversation with Sam Barr from the Samish Tribe regarding improved communication between the Land Bank and the Coast Salish tribes.</p> <p>Peggy said there are ongoing discussion regarding hunting on Lopez and she met with council member, Jane Fuller, where she learned there is a meeting scheduled between land managers and then next with the public.</p> <p>Lastly, Peggy had the opportunity to visit a former co-worker who is now employed with the Tulalip Tribe. She noted that the signs at the tribal headquarters have the English and Coast Salish language represented and found them informative.</p> <p>Anne Marie attended the tour of the Lum Farm at Coffelt Farm Preserve during the Ag Summit.</p>

<p><b>Directors Report</b> 8:49 am (16:48)</p> <p>Strategic Plan Update and Acquisition Process and Priorities Presentation</p>	<p>Lincoln said the next step is taking the draft strategic plan to the county council on March 26. Pending the outcome of the meeting the draft will go out for public comment. Lincoln hopes the process will conclude end of April and the strategic plan will be finalized. In the meantime, simultaneously staff will work on the pieces that come next, one of which is acquisition priorities. The plan has a goal of maximizing conservation opportunities. Lincoln gave a <a href="#">power point presentation on how the Land Bank sets acquisition priorities</a>. An impromptu Q &amp; A session between the public and commission and staff occurred post presentation.</p>
<p><b>Break</b> 10:00 am – 10:10 am (1:27:35)</p>	
<p><b>Outreach/Volunteer Report</b> 10:10 am (1:27:39)</p>	<p>Tanja reminded everyone the March Turtleback March is March 16 and she will be at the San Juan Island Farmer’s Market the first Saturday of April. Tanja also highlighted upcoming events with partner agencies, such as participating in Screen Free Week on San Juan Island the first week of May and a Nature Rx series with the County’s Health and Community Services Department. Tanja is formatting the spring newsletter and 2023 annual report.</p>
<p><b>Stewardship Report</b> 10:13 am (1:30:24)</p>	<p>Peggy asked where the Middlewood Preserve is located. Lincoln answered it is a property along Cattle Point Road, equidistant from Friday Harbor to American Camp, by Jensen Bay Road. Lincoln noted it is open to the public by virtue of the fact that it was part of the Town to American Camp trail with a donated trail easement. The property was later purchased at a discounted price. Lincoln highlighted there is an Island Marble Butterfly restoration site located on the preserve and Doug noted a live butterfly was found there last season. Peggy asked about the dogs off leash report at Zylstra Lake Preserve and was curious if it is a signage issue? Doug noted signage is inadequate and waiting on a new batch since October. Doug shared ideally more presence on the preserve would help.</p> <p>Peter noted dogs off leash are also an issue on Orcas and shared it’s a fine balance between signage and those that just choose not to leash regardless.</p> <p>At the last meeting it staff suggested naming the North Shore Property as North Shore Preserve. Brian expressed interest in a name that reflected some history or geology related to the property, but after researching nothing seemed relevant to the site. Peter stated North Shore has become synonymous with the property and Brian agreed. It was moved by Marilyn O’Connor moved to proceed with naming the North Shore Property, North Shore Preserve. The motion was seconded by Peggy Bill. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p><b>Public Comment</b> 10:24 am (1:41:24)</p>	<p>Amanda Azous commented that she had an altercation while volunteering and closing the gate at Mount Grant Preserve and that she felt unsafe and filed a report with the Sheriff’s Office.</p> <p>Joeseeph Frenetic commented that he has also experienced unwelcome behavior at another Land Bank property.</p>

<b>Executive Session</b> 10:35 am – 11:15am (1:50:09)	As per RCW 42.30.110 1.(i), to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation.
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b> 11:15 am	Vice-chair, Peggy Bill, adjourned the meeting.
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	The next LBC meeting is scheduled to take place April 19, 2024, at the Lopez Island Family Resource Center.