



MEETING MINUTES

Conservation Land Bank Commission Meeting July 19, 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
 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: Lincoln Bormann, Doug McCutchen, Eliza Habegger, Aaron Rock, Amanda Wedow, Tanja Williamson

Land Bank Staff Absent: Shauna Barrows, Charlie Behnke, Tyler Goodman, Peter Guillozet, Erin Halcomb, Jacob Wagner

County Council Liaison: Christine Minney

Public in Attendance: 4 individuals over the course of the meeting.

Topic	Key Discussion Points & Agreements
Call to Order 8:37 am (0.16)	Chair, Brian Wiese, called the meeting to order.
Public Comment 8:37am (0.31)	None
Adoption of Minutes 8:38 am (1:35)	The draft June 21, 2024, minutes were reviewed. There were no corrections. Minutes were approved.

<p>Partner Update – San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) 8:38 am (3:45)</p>	<p>Conservation Director, Vickie Edwards, reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preservation Trust is hosting their summer social, July 20th, at the North Shore Preserve, from 1pm to 4pm. • The draft North Shore Preserve conservation easement (CE) completion date has been bumped to mid/late July. • Vickie announced SJPT’s endorsement of the Land Bank and highlighted an article in their e-news, written by new Communications Director, Kelvin Baker: Better Together: SJPT Endorses Renewal of the Conservation Land Bank.
<p>Council Liaison 8:45 am (8:04)</p>	<p>Christine Minney gave the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Fair takes place next month, Thursday, Aug 15 – Sunday, August 18. New this year – Fair staff will be on Shaw, Lopez, and Orcas Islands to pick-up non-perishable entries and transport them to the Fair. On August 10 bring your items to either the Shaw Island Community Center, Lopez Island Grange, or Orcas Island Grange from 10 am to 6 pm and staff will load them up for transport that evening. Pick up day will be Saturday, August 24 at the same places and times. • Council passed the resolution to extend the duration of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) for acquiring and maintaining conservation areas and approved placing the proposition on the November 5, 2024, general election ballot.
<p>Chair and Commissioner’s Report 8:53 am (15:40)</p>	<p>Peggy attended ag lease meetings and helped support the Gathering of the Eagles Canoe Journey last week. Peggy complimented the new trail work done on the way out Watmough Head. She also enjoyed a field trip to Patos Island hosted by the Friends of the San Juans.</p> <p>Marilyn also attended the trip to Patos and the Cady Mountain Preserve opening.</p> <p>Tim attended a hike Amanda led with the Lopez Community Trails Network at Watmough Head and also a hike to Point Colville. Tim helped with the Farmers Market, also attended Ag Lease meetings and has been doing research on Basalt weathering.</p> <p>Anne Marie attended two North Beach Preserve tours, one with Congressman Larson, and complimented the staff on outreach around stewardship efforts. She also attended a hike at Turtleback Mountain Preserve. She reported that Orcas Community Resource Center and Orcas Island Community Foundation both passed resolutions supporting renewal of the Land Bank REET.</p> <p>Amy hiked the Cady Mountain Preserve trail with Erin and was very impressed.</p> <p>Marilyn noted the San Juan Island Grange passed a resolution supporting renewal of the Land Bank REET and Peggy added the Lopez Community Trust did as well.</p> <p>Brian also had the opportunity to tour the North Shore Preserve and he announced all the Candidates for County Council support renewal of the Land Bank Reet.</p>

Financial Report 9:06 am (39:34)	Aaron presented the Q2 financial report.
Director’s Report 8:56 am (1:07:52) Stewardship Funding Trajectory	<p>Lincoln broached the issue of stewardship funding over time. He noted the clear trajectory for an increased share of revenues to be utilized in stewardship of Preserves vs. property acquisitions.</p> <p>Several major factors have contributed to this change, particularly the cost of infrastructure and management of agricultural properties, the increase in public access to Preserves, and the need to proactively manage properties in the face of climate change.</p> <p>There was discussion.</p>
Break 10:01 am – 10:09 am (1:24:03)	
Director’s Report continued Presentation: Zylstra Lake Preserve acquisition history	Lincoln gave a PowerPoint presentation on Zylstra Lake Preserve Acquisition history , noting in particular the success in raising grant and partner funds.
Outreach/ Communications Report 10:02 am (1:22:56)	Tanja asked for comments regarding the draft Communications Plan and highlighted “informal pocket sessions” gauging what the commission felt is an appropriate place to start. (i.e. once a quarter? Once a year?) There was discussion. Commission agreed good to start in 2025. Tanja will be sending out a booth sign-up sheet for the County Fair. The Nature Rx Walking Series and the free painting sessions on Preserves with Alchemy Arts started this week, and upcoming are guided poetry workshops. Lincoln commented that he did an interview with CLN2. Click here to view. Discussion regarding more outreach events on Orcas and Lopez.
Stewardship Report 10:43 am (1:57:53) Ag Lease Update San Juan Island Orcas Island Salish Seeds Project Lopez Island	<p>Lincoln reported they’ve worked through both leases and Frazer is ready to go and sending another draft back to the San Juan Island Grange for the Beaverton Marsh plot. Lincoln hopes to bring something back to the Commission in the August meeting.</p> <p>BIG push the last few weeks at the Beaverton Marsh/Linde Park trail and phenomenal volunteer help. Doug noted just waiting on signs.</p> <p>Peter extended an invitation to anyone who wants to come to North Shore during the work in August for a “construction tour.”</p> <p>Eliza wrote a Wildflower Growing Guide for San Juan County and it will be available soon in printed form. It’s also available on the Land Bank website for downloading.</p> <p>Amanda noted Lopez staff has been pushing on a lot of maintenance (i.e. mowing and weeds) and now shifting to projects, such as infrastructure maintenance and prepping to build a puncheon at Lopez Hill in August.</p>

Public Comment 10:37 am (1:57:47)	Nancy Greene complimented and thanked staff and commissioners for their work on the financials.
Future Agenda Items 10:52 (2:07)32)	Basalt discussion Stewardship budget
Meeting Adjourned 10:55 am (2:08:16)	Chair, Brian Wiese, adjourned the meeting.
NEXT MEETING	The next LBC meeting is scheduled to take place August 16, 2024, at the San Juan Island Grange.

Summary of Values of Land Bank Purchases

Number of Purchases / Donations	Appraised Value of Purchases 1990-2022	Land Bank Expenditures	Partner Expenditures	Non-acquisition partner contributions	Donations of Property	Land Bank Assists on Other Projects
68 / 7	\$87.6M	\$49M	\$33.5M	\$1.9M	\$7.5M	\$12.4M
Total Purchase Price	\$82.9M		Total Partner Contributions: \$53M			
Number of CE Purchases / Donations	Appraised Value of Purchases 1990-2022	Land Bank Expenditures	Partner Expenditures		Donations of CEs	
33 / 15	\$10.7M	\$7M	\$1.8M	n/a	> \$5M est.	
Total Appraised Value LB Projects: \$98.3M*		Total Appraised Value All Projects: \$109.4M*				
Total LB Expenditures: \$56M		Total Partner Contributions All Projects: \$62.1M				

*Does Not Include CE Donation Value

7-15-24