



## MEETING MINUTES

### Conservation Land Bank Commission Meeting March 21, 2025 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, Charlie Behnke, Peter Guillozet, Eliza Habegger, Erin Halcomb, Doug McCutchen, Aaron Rock, Jacob Wagner, Amanda Wedow, Tanja Williamson

**Land Bank Staff Absent:** Shauna Barrows, Tyler Goodman, Margo Thorp

**County Council Liaison:** Absent

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

Topic	Key Discussion Points & Agreements
<b>Call to Order</b> 8:45 am Time Stamp (0:08)	Chair, Brian Wiese, called the meeting to order.
<b>Public Comment</b> 8:46 am (0:25)	None
<b>Partner Update – San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT)</b> 8:46 am (0:58)	SJPT Trustee, Nancy Greene reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Shore Conservation Easement (CE) closed on March 17, 2025.</li> <li>• Special Projects Director, Kathleen Lewis, is hosting two volunteer Bluebird Blitz events: March 28 and April 11. Volunteers are assigned to an area on</li> </ul>



<b>Director's Report</b> continued	Lastly, the Renew the Land Bank committee had leftover funding and is donating \$20k to the Land Bank to support volunteer acknowledgment and recruitment. Peggy noted that the Youth Conservation Corps also received a donation.
<b>Outreach/ Communications Report</b> 9:12 am (27:37)	Tanja reported the Communications Sub-Committee met and discussed whether to host a spring Community Conversation. The committee's recommendation is yes, host a spring event, and choose one evening and an "all county" format. The date of Thursday, May 8, has been chosen and will be hosted in-person at the San Juan Island Grange. Tanja continues to work on annual report content and Q1 newsletter and filling in the events calendar for spring and summer. She reported Alchemy Art Center's free winter" Art on the Preserves" series will conclude at the end of March and there is discussion to host further workshops in the summer and fall. She is talking with the San Juan Islands Makers Guild regarding an art and nature event on April 5. Brian mentioned tabling at the Orcas Island eco-fair again. Tanja will confirm date and tabling. Website design is coming along and Margo and Tanja had a great meeting with the designers in developing a preserve page template. There was discussion regarding how to use information from the Renew the Land Bank website. Lastly, Tanja mentioned the possibility of transitioning to the County's new newsletter software, GovDelivery, for email blasts and newsletters.
<b>Future Agenda Items Discussion</b> 9:21 am (36:30)	Tim suggested prioritizing items. Marilyn suggested whatever is underway rises to the top, such as financials. For example, the finance sub-committee has been meeting and Marilyn thinks will be ready to make recommendations to the Commission in the near future. Amy suggested using the strategic plan to help guide priorities. There was discussion. In an effort to cut the list, Brian noted Friends of Land Bank group is not happening and can be removed; tribal relations is in progress and currently trying to fit into Frances Robertson's calendar for her to provide an update. There was discussion regarding job descriptions and organizational structure. A sub-committee of Lincoln, Brian, Peggy, and Amy will focus on structure. Brian suggested reviewing the 2017 staffing analysis done by Phil Shephard. Tim shared the agriculture committee met and reviewed the acquisition matrix criteria. Brian asked when ag committee would be able to report back to the commission and Tim said in the near future. Doug suggested including the accessibility topic can be put under stewardship standards. There was discussion. Lincoln noted accessibility is also discussed in staff meetings. Brian suggested waiting before putting dates on anything.
<b>Break</b> 9:40 am – 9:56 am (55:45)	
<b>Stewardship Report</b> 10:55 am (55:53)  San Juan Island  Trail Honoring Louise Dustrude	Lincoln has been talking with the Dustrude family regarding naming a loop or walk to honor her long commitment to the Land Bank and conservation and asked the Commission their thoughts. The Commission was supportive of the idea.  Roger Ellis and Bruce Robinson from the San Juan Island Grange gave an update of the Overmarsh Farm Commons (OFC) project. Roger noted the official lease was signed in February. Half an acre is ready to be planted in April and another half-acre has been staked out if there is more interest. They've received 42 requests for

<p>Overmarsh Farm Commons Project Update</p>	<p>information to participate and approximately 30 people have signed agreements and made payment. Roger noted there is interest in heritage farming (e.g. apples and pears) and he has been talking with Boyd Pratt regarding heritage fruit varieties and historical infrastructure. Bruce thanked Charlie for his support and responsiveness and noted the wet soil has slowed down planting. The steering committee has a goal to improve the clay soil by introducing more organic matter and is close to hiring a project manager to oversee OFC. A greenhouse is going in next week thanks to a \$6k grant from the San Juan Island Community Foundation.</p> <p>Tanja introduced an email request from a Friday Harbor High School junior to install a box at Zylstra Lake Preserve to be used for free fishing gear exchange to fulfill a community project graduation requirement. San Juan Island staff will work with the student to implement. There was discussion and the commission was supportive.</p>
<p>Lopez Island</p>	<p>Amanda reported last fall KWIAHT hosted “Fishing Fridays” at Hummel Lake at the WA Fish and Wildlife boat launch area and she was asked if the Land Bank would be interested in participating. Amanda has also been busy working in the field and prepping for the Watmough Head Trail celebration on May 3. She will be reviewing seasonal field assistants’ applications in the coming week. There was discussion regarding Bureau of Land Management (BLM) involvement this summer.</p>
<p>Salish Seeds Project</p>	<p>Eliza has been busy labeling all the plants and invited any interested commissioners to visit the nursery at Red Mill Farm. She also reported last winter native plants were installed in Driggs Park, expanding the demo garden and an interpretive sign is scheduled for installation. Also, the Master Gardeners of San Juan County paid for a second printing of the “How to Grow Wildflowers in San Juan County” guide.</p> <p>Erin attended a webinar focused on public lands and specifically the BLM. She’s been getting in the field quite a bit, including meeting volunteer Thom Pence after today’s meeting to pull Spurge laurel along the Redtail Trail. She thanked SJPT for pulling data from their conservation plan to help inform the Land Bank’s work. Erin has been in contact and reviewing Tribal relations framework with Frances Robertson and Frances had requested receiving any pertinent questions from the commission in advance of her making a presentation.</p>
<p>Orcas Island</p>	<p>Peter reported Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is done mapping the thinning area at Crescent Beach Preserve and posted a sign with a QR code that links to an informational webpage. If all goes well with federal funding the thinning project should start in July. Peter hired a local landscaper to prune all the heritage fruit trees at North Shore Preserve. He noted it’s probably a three-year process to get the trees back to reasonable shape, and part of the contract includes leading some volunteer events. Peter hopes to host an orchard workshop in the fall and next spring some grafting. He’s started working on interpretive signage at North Shore, which is funded by the RCO grant SJPT secured.</p> <p>He’s meeting with a consultant at South Turtleback parking area next week to kick off the design of the new parking area. Included in the project is creating an accessible trail around the field and planting Garry oaks.</p>

Orcas Island continued	At Coffelt, still waiting on the final plan for septic replacement, and then it will go out to bid. Also hoping to install a heavy use, cost share area at Coffelt.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Public Comment</b> 10:37 am (1:36:04)	None
<b>Executive Session</b> 10:38 am – 11:10 am (1:36:15)	The Land Bank Commission met in executive session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price.
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b> (1:36:43) 11:10 am	Chair, Brian Wiese, came out of executive session. No decision was made and the meeting was adjourned.
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	The next LBC meeting is scheduled to take place April 18, 2025, at the Lopez Island Family Resource Center, located at 23 Pear Lane, Lopez Island, WA.