



MEETING MINUTES

**Land Bank Commission Meeting
 January 9, 2009
 Council Hearing Room, San Juan County Legislative Building**

Commission Members in Attendance: Nancy Greene, Mary Blackstone, Nancy Jones, Tom Cowan, Thom Pence, and Amanda Azous.

Commission Members Absent: None.

Land Bank Staff in Attendance: Lincoln Bormann, Judy Cumming, Eliza Habegger, Doug McCutchen, Tim Clark, and Diane Kinnaman.

Land Bank Staff Absent: Ruthie Dougherty.

Public in Attendance: Jim Higgins, Alice Hurd, Eileen Drath, Louise Dustrude, David Tomlinson, Robin Garcia.

Topic	Key Discussion Points & Agreements	Actions and Next Steps
<u>Call to Order</u>	8:30am the meeting was called to order.	
<u>Chair's Report</u>	Amanda Azous, incoming Chair and ten-year member of the commission, thanked Nancy Jones for her past year of Chairmanship - acknowledging the commission's gratitude to Nancy for showing great leadership during a particularly challenging year.	
<u>Adoption of Minutes</u>	The December 12, 2008 minutes were reviewed. There were corrections. The October 24, 2008 Notes from the Retreat will be approved at the February 13 th meeting.	Tom Cowan moved to accept the December 12, 2008 minutes with corrections. Nancy Jones seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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<u>Finance Report</u>	<p>Mary Blackstone gave a detailed overview of the “to-date” 2008 Conservation Area Fund and Stewardship Fund, noting accounting is finalized in January and final figures will be given at the February 13th meeting.</p> <p>Notably 2008’s REET was closed out at just over 2 million in revenue with interest income at 235K; 277K less than previous year. Interest rates are still falling.</p> <p>At the January 11, 2008 LBC meeting, the Commission passed a motion for the Stewardship Fund to increase annually by \$400K. At the end of 2008 it was determined the Stewardship Fund had not increased sufficiently and that approximately \$220K would need to be transferred from the Conservation Area Fund into the Stewardship Fund.</p> <p>Judy Cumming noted the exact amount of funds to transfer cannot be determined until January 22nd.</p>	<p>Final balances of 2008 CAF and Stewardship Fund to be reported at the February Land Bank Commission (LBC) meeting.</p> <p>Nancy Jones moved to accept the December financial statements as presented and proceed with the transfer to the Stewardship Fund. Thom Pence seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Stewardship Funds transfer total to be reported at the February LBC meeting.</p>
<u>Public Comments</u>	<p>9:00 am – Alice Hurd, member of the public thanked the Commission and staff for their efforts and expressed the importance of the Land Bank’s work.</p>	
<u>Commission Appointment</u>	<p>There was discussion about the County Council’s new process for Land Bank Commission appointments, which is currently being formulated.</p>	<p>Lincoln will speak with the County Administrator and the Clerk of the County Council and determine exactly what the new process will be.</p>
<u>2009 Meeting Schedule</u>	<p>The calendar was reviewed and it was determined that eight meetings would be held on San Juan Islands and four meetings will be held on various other islands – locations to be determined.</p>	<p>March 13th Land Bank Commission meeting will take place at the Lopez Public Library, Lopez Island.</p>
<u>Director’s Report Annual Work Plan</u>	<p>Lincoln Bormann reported that all County departments now produce an annual work plan. In line with that, the Land Bank has produced the Stewardship Work Plan is currently producing the Overall Work Plan showing measurable objectives, ongoing projects, and budget requests.</p>	<p>2009 Stewardship and Overall Work Plans to be approved by Land Bank Commission before presented to County Council.</p>

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<u>Potential Federal and State Stimulus Packages</u>	Update: Lincoln reported that the list of Land Bank related projects has been passed on to the Association of Counties – the lobbying entity to get counties dollars. This list has also been forwarded onto Kevin Ranker, new State Senator.	
<u>Turtleback Endowment Fund</u>	The Turtleback Stewardship Fund agreement with the San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) was discussed. Priority to proceed while market is low; appreciation will be received by Land Bank so will be better long-term.	Lincoln will discuss the Turtleback Stewardship Fund with Tim Seifert, SJPT and report back at the February LBC meeting.
<u>Judd Cove</u>	Mary Blackstone reported that the Department of Ecology (DOE) continues to work on site at the Judd Cove Preserve. The Department of Natural Resources and the DOE are set to finish work there soon.	
<u>Fair Display</u>	Land Bank will have its own booth this year, located in a more open location, more participatory. Minimal Land Bank participation in Stewardship Network area.	Fair display ideas to be addressed at the February LBC meeting.
<u>Grants</u>	Lincoln reported that Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) processes are bi-annual and currently in an off-year. Funding by Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) is currently being researched with an informational meeting to take place in January. Waiting on final confirmation of grant funding by US Fish and Wildlife Service for preserving Golden Paintbrush on the MarVista property. Assuming next year there is still a WWRP program, discussion will take place on how best to deal with potential opportunities. The process is such where there are 3-5 projects that come through at a time with random ones coming in at different times, which is why having a designated grants administrator is helpful.	Lincoln will report at the February LBC meeting on SRFB funding.
Acquisition Projects <u>San Juan Island</u>	<u>Heritage Farm</u> – Appraisal to be done. <u>SJI Historical Museum</u> – Concerns raised about restoration expenses. There was discussion. <u>Howard</u> – Appraisal to be done. <u>Hart</u> – SJPT/Land Bank potential partnership.	

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	<p>Owner is considering subdividing property. <u>Erickson</u> – Feasibility Study prepared by SJI Agricultural Guild forthcoming. There was discussion.</p> <p><u>Sundstrom CE</u> – Working with SJPT, transaction to be done by end of March.</p>	
<u>Break</u>	9:47 15-minute break.	
<p><u>Stewardship Report</u></p> <p><u>King Sisters Lease</u></p>	<p>Annual Stewardship Work plan was distributed.</p> <p><u>King Sisters Lease</u> – Second step of lease process is to meet with folks to review their applications. Committee will run through scoring process with new information. Lessee decision will be made by the committee on January 13th, to be presented to the Land Bank Commission at the February LBC meeting.</p> <p>Nancy Greene requested a summary be provided of the range of applicants.</p>	<p>Land Bank Commission will approve lessee agreement at February LBC meeting. County Council will approve lessee agreement at end of February.</p>
<u>Fisherman Bay Spit Dock</u>	Public meeting Tuesday January 13 th to discuss Draft Dock Management Plan. There was discussion.	Doug McCutchen will report on the public meeting at February LBC meeting.
<u>Meeting Adjourned</u>	10:25pm meeting adjourned.	
NEXT MEETING	February 13, 2009 at the Conference Room, Whidbey Island Bank, 535 Market Street, Friday Harbor, San Juan Island	