



MEETING MINUTES

Land Bank Commission Meeting

March 13, 2009

Community Meeting Room, Lopez Public Library, Lopez Island

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

Commission Members Absent: Lisa Wolford.

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

Land Bank Staff Absent: Eliza Habegger and Ruthie Dougherty.

Public in Attendance: Bob Myhr, Dan Silkiss, Alice Hurd and Eileen Drath.

Topic	Key Discussion Points & Agreements	Actions and Next Steps
<u>Call to Order</u>	10:30am the meeting was called to order.	
<u>Adoption of Minutes</u>	The February 13, 2009 minutes were reviewed. There were corrections.	Thom Pence moved to accept the February 13, 2009 minutes with corrections. Nancy Greene seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
<u>Chair's Report</u> <u>Walk on Hummel Lake</u>	Amanda Azous greeted San Juan Trails committee members present and thanked staff for putting together the flyer about the scheduled walk at Hummel Lake and Upright Head preserves after the meeting.	

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<u>Federal Tax Incentive for Conservation Easement Donations</u>	Incentive has been renewed through December 31, 2009: tax benefit for the donation of conservation easements. There was discussion. The Land Trust Alliance website www.landtrustalliance.org has more information on this topic.	Land Bank staff will draft an Incentive informational news article in conjunction with the San Juan Preservation Trust.
<u>Finance Report</u>	<p>Judy reviewed the REET collection spreadsheet and graphs with commissioners. There was discussion.</p> <p>February Stewardship and Conservation Area Fund reports will be presented, along with March's reports at the April 10, 2009 meeting. Judy explained the vendor contracts process, which has been taking extra time this past month, is holding up the normal reporting of these funds.</p>	February Stewardship and Conservation Area Fund reports will be presented on April 10 th .
<u>Land Bank Public Display</u>	San Juan Island Library – Judy reported that the Land Bank's photo exhibit of agriculture, forest, and shoreline preserves will run March – mid April. Also included in the display; maps and general information about the Land Bank as well as a public comment box.	
<u>Director's Report</u> <u>Photography Contest/ Exhibit</u>	Photography contest rules were reviewed and discussed. Goal of contest: get as many entries as possible to create an exhibit for public displays throughout San Juan communities.	Flyer and online advertising for contest will begin in April 2009.
<u>Public Comments</u> <u>Dan Silkis</u>	9:00 am – Lopezian Dan Silkiss spoke about Hummel Lake trail issues including sensitive areas pertaining to the trail circumnavigating the lake, recruiting volunteers, and trash accumulation. Dan suggested “pack in – pack out” for the preserve signs. The lake has been stocked with rainbow and triploid trout. Salmon studies were discussed. Dan reported that Friends of Hummel Lake (FHL) is officially a 501c3 with donations being accepted at local banks. Amanda thanked Dan for his many years of dedicated stewardship.	
<u>Bob Myhr</u>	Bob Myhr commented positively about the Land Bank leasing agricultural lands in the San Juan islands and supported the idea of more agriculture easements on Lopez Island.	

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<p><u>Public Comments continued</u> <u>Bob Myhr</u></p>	<p>The county council recently reviewed the roles of all advisory committees and Bob reported on the consensus of all council members, acknowledging the tremendous value of all advisory committees and thanked the Land Bank commission for what they do.</p>	
<p><u>Alice Hurd</u></p>	<p>Alice Hurd, representing the San Juan Trails Committee (SJTC), thanked the Land Bank for donating trail work party pictures for display at the SJTC March 4th potluck celebration. Doug McCutchen, Land Bank Preserve Steward gave a much appreciated presentation of 2008-09 joint work efforts at the March 4th gathering.</p>	
<p><u>Eileen Drath</u></p>	<p>Eileen Drath, SJTC member, thanked Land Bank staff for their efforts organizing a 30 person hike on Turtleback mountain last month. Eileen accompanied the group which was wonderfully guided by Land Bank preserve steward Ruthie Dougherty; dividing into two groups taking both the long and short trails.</p>	
<p><u>Director's Report continued</u> <u>Administrative Report</u></p>	<p>Lincoln accompanied the County Council on the Lopez Hill field trip, viewing trails and discussing issues, and reported on continued contract negotiations with Department of Natural Resources for the lease. The Council also viewed Upright Head Preserve improvements.</p> <p>The County Council is scheduled to tour Judd Cove Preserve on Orcas island with Land Bank preserve steward Ruthie Dougherty who will review with them the restoration project currently taking place on the preserve.</p>	
<p><u>Acquisition Projects</u> <u>Lopez Island</u></p>	<p><u>Jones, Strachan</u> – Moving forward with negotiations. Will be discussed further in executive session later in the meeting.</p>	
<p><u>San Juan Island</u> <u>SJ/Heritage Farm continued</u></p>	<p><u>Heritage Farm</u> – Conservation easement (CE) amendment has closed. Subordination agreement was required for this transaction. Heritage Farm and Howard properties are both part of the Neighborhood Concept; an effort to build on already established conservation easements in agriculturally important areas. There was discussion.</p>	

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<u>SJ/Howard</u>	<u>Howard</u> – Continue moving forward with appraisal. A subordination agreement is not needed and the Conservation Easement should be completed within the next two months. Once done, 175 contiguous acres will be under CEs in this area.	<u>Howard</u> - Lincoln will proceed with appraisal procedures.
<u>SJ/SJI Historical Museum</u>	<u>SJI Historical Museum Historical CE</u> – Moving forward.	<u>SJI Historical Museum</u> – Lincoln will move forward with transaction.
<u>SJ/Sundstrom</u>	<u>Sundstrom CE</u> – 120 acres total, working with San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT); no residential development allowed, CE is structured for continued farming, SJPT will lease out, Land Bank will reserve the right to put in a public trail.	<u>Sundstrom</u> – Lincoln will move forward with transaction, Land Bank staff will collaborate with SJPT on agricultural leasing strategies.
<u>Executive Session:</u>	Executive session was called for at 11:40am pursuant to RCW42.30.110 To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when the public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price.	Executive session ended at Noon.
<u>Stewardship Report</u> <u>Garry Oak Grove Adoption Program</u>	Doug McCutchen reviewed the Land Bank’s Garry Oak grove adoption program, inspired by the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery conference in Victoria attended by Eliza Habegger and Doug. Concept: volunteers adopt small area of Cady Mountain preserve; help work on maintenance and construction of cages, removal of invasives, and possibly other monitoring and enhancement in the future. Mary Blackstone commended stewardship staff on the scope of work that has been accomplished over the past several months, reflected in the stewardship report.	Land Bank staff will continue to recruit individuals for this program.
<u>Draft Fisherman Bay Dock Management Plan</u>	Planning process has been productive, public meeting went very well. All issues brought forth are being considered. There was discussion.	Land Bank staff will draft lease and provide to Port for their review.
<u>Draft Frazer Homestead Preserve Management Plan</u>	Public meeting takes place Friday, April 3 rd at the Mullis Community Senior Center 4-6pm. Comments on the plan are being accepted March 20 – April 15, 2009.	Public meeting April 3 rd , 2009.
<u>Meeting Adjourned</u>	12:45 pm meeting adjourned.	

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<u>Field Trip:</u>	Land Bank commissioners and staff, along with citizens, met at Hummel Lake and Upright Head to walk the preserves and view site enhancements.	
NEXT MEETING	April 10, 2009 at the Council Hearing Room, San Juan Legislative Building, San Juan Island.	