



## MEETING MINUTES

### Conservation Land Bank Commission Meeting March 17, 2023 Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Marilyn O'Connor, District 1, position 1  
 Sandi Friel, 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  
 Christa Campbell, at large, position 7

**Commission Members Absent:**

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

**Land Bank Staff Absent:** None

**County Council Liaison:** Christine Minney

**County Administrator:** Absent

**Public in Attendance:** 10 individuals over the course of the meeting.

Topic	Key Discussion Points & Agreements
<b>Call to Order</b> 8:36 am	Chair, Christa Campbell, called the meeting to order.
<b>Public Comment</b> 8:36 am	No public comment
<b>Adoption of Minutes</b> 8:37 am	The draft February 17, 2023, minutes were reviewed. There was a correction. Minutes were approved.

<p><b>Chair and Commissioner’s Report</b> 8:38 am</p>	<p>Christa introduced the two newly appointed Commissioners: Marilyn O’Connor (District 1, position 1) and Amy Trainer (At Large, position 6). Peggy Bill’s appointment (District 3, position 3) is scheduled for next County Council meeting.</p> <p>Christa asked for a volunteer to replace Jim Skoog on the <a href="#">Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee</a>. Mike attended the <a href="#">Clean Water Advisory Committee</a> meeting and would like to see the Land Bank take an active role on both advisory committees. Christine noted the Clean Water Committee meets monthly whereas Climate and Sustainability meets quarterly. Marilyn suggested putting liaison decision on the March agenda to give new Commissioners an opportunity to time to consider.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Lincoln will set up appointment for new commissioners to learn more about Climate and Sustainability and Clean Water Advisory committees.</p> <p>There was discussion around returning to abbreviated finance report at monthly meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Aaron will make finance a set line item on monthly agenda and continue providing detailed reports quarterly.</p> <p>Brian highlighted the success of the Lum’s signing 5-year lease at Coffelt Farm Preserve after a long process.</p> <p>Lincoln noted new commissioners traditionally receive a very large binder for onboarding; Aaron has been converting the information into an electronic version and will have that available soon.</p>
<p><b>Partner Update – San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT)</b> 9:04 am</p>	<p>Stewardship Manager, Kathleen Lewis, reported the Lopez Hill Addition Conservation Easement (CE) conveyance is scheduled for the County Council’s 2/28 meeting, and they are looking forward to closing. SJPT met with Representative Alex Ramel to discuss \$2.1M Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant request. <b>Background:</b> The Governor’s budget didn’t include enough funding for the North Shore CE request. SJPT and conservation advocates are asking the legislature to fully fund PSAR at \$60M. If that doesn’t happen, SJPT will begin fundraising with private donors.</p> <p>Lastly, SJPT is setting up site visits to Cady Mountain with Land Bank staff in preparation for their fundraising efforts for CE purchase on the 142-acre Cady Mountain Development property.</p> <p>Brian asked if it would be helpful for Land Bank commissioners to send a letter of support to legislators asking for the budget allocation increase.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Staff to draft a letter of support for Commission Chair to sign.</p>
<p><b>Council Liaison</b> 9:13 am</p>	<p>Christine Minney has been in Olympia as the Council’s legislative representative. She noted it’s been a slow start for Council in 2023. Christine toured Beaverton Marsh Preserve with Doug and worked with Christa to interview commission applicants. Council sent a letter of support to the legislature to fund the North Shore</p>

	<p>project via PSAR Funding. Congratulations to the Lum Family and Land Bank for signing the 5-year lease.</p>
<p><b>Director's Report</b> 9:19 am Strategic Plan</p> <p>San Juan Island</p> <p>San Juan Valley Trail Project</p> <p>False Bay Creek Preserve and Clean Water Advisory Committee Recommendation</p>	<p>Lincoln stated that the next step is to finalize and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to assist with the plan; once the consultant is on board he hopes to complete the strategic plan process by year's end. Peter has supplied a sample RFP. There was discussion regarding timing of putting out RFP. Christa noted public input will be vital during the strategic plan process; Mike noted concerns about money and time and success in broadening feedback from the greater community.</p> <p>Lincoln discussed the difference between a strategic planning effort and a possible renewal campaign. The strategic plan will clarify the Commission's goals over the next 5-10 years. A renewal campaign would be separate from this effort and no County resources could be used to advocate for renewal. The County can provide information about Land Bank accomplishments and goals which might be used in any renewal effort. There was discussion. Consensus emerged that the goals of the strategic plan need to be clear. It is also an important first step to help inform a future renewal committee. Brian highlighted that with three new commissioners onboarding, timing is good to go through the strategic planning process. Mike noted its critical to interact with public and questioned how to reach groups we don't normally reach.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u></b> Lincoln will re-draft the RFP and share with the strategic planning sub-committee. A final draft of the RFP will be brought back to the Commission for their March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p> <p>The County was awarded \$5.28 million in federal transportation funds to develop a shared-use trail connecting the Town of Friday Harbor to Zylstra Lake Preserve. Lincoln noted that currently there is no proposed route and anticipates this will be a long process with considerable public involvement. Grant Carlton, Management Analyst for the County, is heading up the project. <a href="#">Click here</a> for the County's FAQ page.</p> <p>The County Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) notified the Land Bank about water quality concerns on False Bay Creek. In particular, CWAC requested the Land Bank discontinue leasing the False Bay Creek Preserve for cattle grazing.</p> <p>Background: Since acquiring the property in 2008, the Land Bank has continued to allow grazing (which had occurred on the property throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century), but also fenced cattle from and worked to restore its riparian areas. The management plan, which is due to be updated, at the Preserve looks to accomplish many objectives, including ecological restoration, agricultural use and public access.</p> <p>CWAC is concerned that the property is inundated in winter and contributes to nutrient loading in the creek and into False Bay. Kendra Smith, the Director of Environmental Stewardship (ES), provided an aerial photo showing the property flooded. Kendra noted the department supports Ag and wants to see/support best practices. She also noted though that the Department of Ecology has flagged the</p>

<p>False Bay Creek Preserve and CWAC Recommendation continued</p>	<p>creek and could take regulatory action to improve water quality. There was discussion.</p> <p>Lincoln sees the management regime shifting away from ag use and toward environmental protection and restoration, given the situation. However, the current farmer doesn't have an alternative site to move cattle. Lincoln recommends continuing the ag use for a year though looking at the grazing interval and area. In the meantime he recommended continuing water quality testing to see if recent changes in upstream management will have a significant effect on water quality.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u></b> Staff will come back to the Commission with more specific recommendations to consider.</p>
<p><b>Stewardship Report</b> 10:23 am</p> <p>Lopez Island</p>	<p>Peter drafted a wetland mitigation proposal. Peter would like to see a commission working group to look at mitigation. Brian and Peggy volunteered to work with Peter.</p> <p>Amanda noted several properties are in the queue for Stewardship and Management Plans. She hosted an open house meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, which was met with a good turnout and overall feedback was positive.</p>
<p><b>Outreach and Volunteer Report</b> 10:35 am</p>	<p>There was discussion around sharing Lum Farm blog. Tanja has enlisted Erin to help review preserve webpages to bring more consistency. Tanja noted the registration deadline for the Ag Summit is February 19<sup>th</sup> and that she and Andrew are formatting upcoming spring events for Orcas.</p> <p>Brian asked to add communications working group update to monthly meeting.</p>
<p><b>Future Agenda Items Discussion</b> 10:38 am</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing – staff to report back at a future meeting</li> <li>• Traditionally important landscapes and flora and fauna, and access for tribes of the region within current and future preserves</li> <li>• The Land Bank's collective big dream/goal for the overall resiliency of the islands and the bioregion</li> <li>• Wetland mitigation</li> </ul> <p>Brian emphasized, again, he would like the Commission to resume in-person meetings. Christa was in conversation with Sally Rogers regarding use of the County Council room for future meetings. Christa couldn't go further without knowing if Commissioners were flexible beyond third Friday of the month meetings. Doug noted the Town of Friday Harbor meeting room is set up for hybrid meetings.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u></b> Christa will poll commissioners for best dates.</p> <p>Discussion around planning and touring new commissioners around Land Bank properties.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b> 10:52 am</p>	<p>Chair, Christa Campbell, adjourned the meeting.</p>
<p><b>NEXT MEETING</b></p>	<p>The next LBC meeting is scheduled to take place April 21, 2023.</p>