Jefferson County Conservation Futures Committee
Special Meeting, Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Jefferson County Public Health Pacific Room
615 Sheridan St., Port Townsend, WA 98368
FINAL MINUTES
* Decisions and action items are indicated in bold font.

Members Present: Scott Brinton (via teleconference), Interest – Agriculture; Lige Christian, Vice Chair – District 3; JD Gallant – District 3; Rob Harbour, Interest – Working Lands; Richard Jahnke, Interest – Coastal Areas; Joanne Pontrello – District 2; David Seabrook (via teleconference), Interest – Food Security; Dave Wilkinson, Chair – District 1

Members Absent: Ray Hunter, Interest – Fallow Farms; Lorna Smith, Interest – Ecotourism

County Staff Present: Tami Pokorn, Environmental Public Health; Jacqueline Stenman, Water Quality Division, recorder

Guests: Phil Andrus, Mary Biskup, Craig Schrader, Peter Bahls, Northwest Watershed Institute (NWI); Sarah Spaeth, Jefferson Land Trust (JLT)

I. Call to Order

Chair David Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Richard Jahnke moved to approve the draft minutes of the November 13, 2018 Meeting with the correction of semicolons; JD Gallant seconded. The Jefferson County Conservation Futures (JCCF) Committee approved of the minutes with all in favor. The JCCF Committee accepted by consensus the final minutes from the October 10, 2018 Meeting as written, which were signed by the Chair.

III. Approval of Draft Agenda

Lige Christian moved to approve the draft agenda; JD Gallant seconded. The agenda was approved with all in favor.

IV. Guest Observer Comments

A guest commented that the JCCF Committee is a great committee. Tami Pokorn reminded the Committee members that there were eight members present of the ten
the addition of two new properties to the wildlife corridor: the Crossley property and
Sarah Speech presented on the 2019 Quimper Wildlife Corridor Addition, which includes

The amended motion: The motion passed with all in favor.

The committee discussed the project changes. Sarah confirmed that
The committee reviewed the changes to the proposal. Rob Harbour moved to approve
There were no reports.

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The amendment was made to the bylaws. The majority was seven members. Three members were unable to vote because they

The amendment was made to the bylaws. The majority was seven members. Three members were unable to vote because they
the Jones property. The goal of the Quimper Wildlife Corridor is to connect a series of wetlands and high habitat values with a green belt of native vegetation, stretching most of the way across the Peninsula. Over the years, JLT has been working closely with multiple funding sources to acquire over 80 lots that make up the corridor. The Gressley property is a three-lot property, which the landowner wishes to sell. Funding for the Gressley property is being leveraged by the donation of the Jones property, which was appraised at $40,000. A $5000 stewardship match has also been donated. As a JLT acquisition, stewardship of the wildlife corridor involves more than 30 volunteer preserve stewards, a stewardship fund, and insurance that covers any enforcement or preserve challenges. While the project does not directly protect anadromous fish habitat, it does contribute to the protection of water quality, and provides habitat to a wide variety of wildlife, including several threatened species. The project also provides broad community benefit through public trail access, school use and the preservation of local green space. The Committee asked whether it was possible to amend the application for the increased value of the match due to the contribution of the Jones property, but Sarah said that would not change the total cost of the project so there was no benefit to the amendment. The 2019 Quimper Wildlife Corridor Addition ranked second by JLT out of their proposed projects.

Dosewallips River Lazy C Phase I
Tami Pokorny presented on the Jefferson County acquisition project on the Dosewallips River, the second largest watershed in the Hood Canal. The river deposits a significant amount of sediment when it’s forced to make a turn and slows down along the Lazy C, causing the river to meander. The purchase of two parcels would be the first step in acquiring the lower Lazy C lots to improve salmon habitat by, for example, providing the open space necessary to develop a fish-friendly response to ongoing erosion there. The County typically responds to erosion-related issues on an emergency basis using riprap, which can degrade habitat and transmit the erosive power of the river downstream. The acquisitions are part of a larger effort to improve habitat for summer chum salmon and additional project elements may also include designing improvements to a side channel, creating more habitat complexity, protecting existing summer chum habitat, reducing risks from development, lessening the instability of the channel migration zone and continuing established partnerships within the community. Although it is definitely a fish project and will benefit all anadromous fish except sockeye, the project will also provide compatible community benefits. The request is for $7649 towards the acquisition of two parcels; the total project cost is $50,992. The County has demonstrated stewardship of about 80 acres it already owns in the area, including lots within the Lazy C.

Tarboo Forest Addition
Peter Bahls presented on the conservation easement acquisition, which would add 21 acres to the 400-acre Tarboo Wildlife Preserve, the largest conservation project in the County. It is a landscape-scale project to establish a protected corridor from the Tarboo Creek headwaters down to Dabob bay. NWI has been working to protect and restore
The inclusion of the Vallecito property in the proposed project's Watershed of the Property has the same high value as the other LTI projects with similar additional fees and costs to those Peter Banks listed for the $280,000. The estimated cost of the property and, presumably, ultimately the neighborhood property, is that property and adjacent areas with the easement to project the functional goal of their property. As with the Vallecito property, it is estimated at $280,000 to pay off the property. The property has the potential residential rights down to one LTI would acquire three of the rights, and the property and adjacent areas with the easement would reduce development from the property. The purpose of the conservation easement would reduce development from the property. The purpose of the conservation easement would reduce development from the property.
project on the JLT Navy funding list. The property is surrounded by other conservation easements and preserves, spreads to other projects in the Hood Canal and builds on efforts to protect Quilcene Bay. Hood Canal summer chum salmon may be a candidate for delisting in the future, in large part due to community efforts like this one. Public benefits include the protection of agricultural lands, riparian buffers, and water quality in Quilcene Bay; sediment reduction through forest improvements; and the opportunity to contribute to another headwaters-to-bay project to protect fish, farms and forests. The Committee asked whether the project could be phased through a promise of funds for this year and next year. Sarah did not know, but she was aware of time constraints for the landowners. The group asked if she could share the Navy easement. Sarah said she will, but will need permission from the Navy first.

Snow Creek Middle Reach Forest Protection
Sarah Spaeth gave an update on the project, which JCCF funded last year. The original proposal was for four of six lots being sold by the landowner. After the appraisal was completed, it became evident that the landowner only wished to sell if all six lots were sold together. The two additional lots included the site of a decommissioned gas station, which was evaluated by the Department of Ecology and given “a clean bill of health.” The JLT contract should go through without any difficulties as long as the budget is not increased. Since the appraised value of the four original lots came in at about $40,000 less than the estimate, and there is not much additional value to the other two lots, it is likely that the proposal budget will not increase. A draft contract is currently with the County. If all goes well with their own assessment of the gas station parcel, JLT wants to expand the scope of the project to include the additional parcel acquisitions without adjustment to the budget. No action is required at this meeting, but action from the JCCF Committee may be required at the next meeting to approve the change to the scope of the project. The downside to the scope change is that JLT will be buying land that has no real restoration value, but if it means they can acquire the critical land, they are willing to go through with the entire acquisition.

Annual Reports
The JCCF Committee decided to table the discussion of the annual reports until the May 1, 2019 Meeting.

Election of New Officers
Richard Jahnke moved to appoint Lige Christian as the new Chair of the JCCF Committee; Rob Harbour seconded. The motion passed with all in favor. Lige Christian moved to vote for the Vice Chair. The group discussed the terms of the position, which lasts for one year and is rotational among Committee members. Joanne Pontrello volunteered for the position of Vice Chair. Rob Harbour moved to appoint Joanne Pontrello as Vice Chair; JD Gallant seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Next Meeting: WED May 1, 2019 4-6 PM
Meeting notes prepared by Rebekah Brooks.

Motion passed by consensus. The JCC Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Richard Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting; Joanne Pontello seconded. The meeting adjourned.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Joanne Pontello commented that Paul Mahan asked via text that the JCC Committee consider this project.

GUEST OBSERVER COMMENTS

Scorseseft.

Whether scoring on climate change is needed, Tami will also send out a new Excel spreadsheet. In December, one of the County Commissioners asked the CF Committee to consider to get a 1CC budget balance before the meeting, but will email it out. Tami noted that, now fully executed and attached to the parcel through a Notice to Title, she was unable to proceed as agreed between the City, County and JCC. The previously unsigned agreement is.

Tami Pohorly announced that the 2004 Gateway Project is now proceeded by an

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIONS

This item was skipped.