

WHATCOM COUNTY

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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Memorandum

TO: Honorable Whatcom County Councilmembers
Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

THROUGH: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director, PDS

FROM: Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, CEP Administrator

DATE: March 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Request approval for Whatcom County Executive to act as the authorized representative on behalf of Whatcom County for Recreation and Conservation Office Farmland Preservation grant

Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program staff would like to apply to the 2022 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation grant program. This grant would provide 50% matching funds to purchase a conservation easement, as described below. The RCO requires use of resolution language provided by the RCO in order to apply for the grants. The attached draft resolution uses the RCO required language and defines the authority granted to the authorized agent.

The Conservation Easement Program Administrator requests to submit one application to the 2022 application round of the RCO WWRP Farmland Preservation category for project 22-1322A Jacoby Agricultural Conservation Easement. The Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee has ranked this property as having high agricultural and ecosystem values. This project is not guaranteed to be awarded matching funds and will still require Council approval before Conservation Futures Funds may be used as match for an agricultural conservation easement.

Request Summary

Conservation Easement Program Administrator requests approval of the attached resolution to authorize Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu as having full authority to bind Whatcom County regarding all matters related to the project listed above. Please contact Program Administrator Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke at (360)778-5956 with any questions.