

WHATCOM COUNTY

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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Memorandum

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

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director, PDS *MP*

FROM: Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, CEP Administrator

DATE: September 2, 2021

SUBJECT: Request approval to sign agreement with Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office in order to secure matching funds for the VanderWerff Agricultural Conservation Easement through the Conservation Easement Program.

Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program staff applied to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation grant program in 2020 for several of the Conservation Easement Program applications. The VanderWerff application has been awarded matching funds to contribute towards the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on the VanderWerff property.

This request is to sign a grant agreement to secure funding from RCO. It does not obligate Whatcom County to spend funds. This project will still require Council approval before an agricultural conservation easement can be completed.

VanderWerff applied to the Conservation Easement Program in 2016. Authorization to apply for funding assistance for this application was approved by Whatcom County Council on May 5, 2020 through Resolution 2020-014.

Request Summary

Conservation Easement Program Staff request approval for the Executive to sign the Funding Board Project Agreement for project number 20-1584 (VanderWerff Agricultural Conservation Easement) to receive matching funds to support acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the VanderWerff property. This request is to secure funding from RCO and does not obligate Whatcom County to spend funds.

Please contact Conservation Easement Program Administrator Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke at (360)778-5956 with any questions.