

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, PDR Program Administrator

DATE: January 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Presentation of the Purchase of Development Rights Program and request for approval to proceed with acquisition of six conservation easements

Whatcom County PDR Program staff would like to update Council with an overview of current applications to the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program including a request for approval to purchase easements on six projects.

The PDR Program continues to experience ongoing success both in terms of applications received and funding secured. To date, 30 conservation easements have been purchased, protecting 1,500 acres of working lands.

PDR Program staff wants to provide a program update and request approval to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire development rights and conservation easements on the Lakeland Foundation, Jones-Bishop, Martin, VanderWerff, Kiera-Duffy Forestry, and Kiera-Duffy Ecological application parcels.

The Lakeland Foundation application is located in Bertrand Creek watershed, off of Birch Bay Lynden Rd. This application will result in the elimination of 9 development rights and effectively protect 323 acres of working farmland.

The Jones-Bishop application is located in Anderson Creek watershed, off of Sand Rd. This application will result in the elimination of 8 development rights and effectively protect 47 acres of working farmland.

The Martin application is located in Samish River watershed, off of Saxon Rd. This application will result in the elimination of 1 development right and effectively protect 54 acres of working farmland.

The VanderWerff application is located in Anderson Creek watershed, off of Kelly Rd. This application will result in the elimination of 2 development rights and effectively protect 20 acres of working farmland.

The Kiera-Duffy Forestry application is located in Middle Fork Nooksack watershed, off of Mosquito Lake Rd. This application will result in the elimination of 2 development rights and effectively protect 56 acres of working forestland.

The Kiera-Duffy Ecological application is located in Middle Fork Nooksack watershed, off of Mosquito Lake Rd. This application will result in the elimination of 4 development rights and effectively protect 57 acres of an important ecological area.

Thank you for receiving this program update and considering the above referenced request.

Request Summary

PDR Program Staff requests approval of the ranked list recommended by the PDR Oversight Committee and approval to authorize the Executive to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire conservation easements on the Lakeland Foundation, Jones-Bishop, Martin, VanderWerff, Kiera-Duffy Forestry, and Kiera-Duffy Ecological applications, provided appraisal is completed, conservation easement is drafted which meets the PDR Program guidelines, landowners have agreed to the offer price and conservation easement conditions, and budget authority has been adopted by Whatcom County Council.

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