

Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee
May 19, 2022

Meeting Minutes

<https://youtu.be/XDTcV8588lk>

ATTENDEES:

Members Present: Joe Hanna (Chair); Robert McIntosh; Gigi McClure (scribe); Jake Yancey (Vice Chair), Kevin Jensen

Members Absent: Pat Labine

Ex Officio Present: Stephen Bramwell (WSU); Sarah Moorehead (Executive Director, TCD Staff)

Guest Speaker: Christina Chaput

Guests Present: Loretta Seppanen; Helen Wheatley; Tony Wilson

Called to Order:

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Approval of Current Agenda – Motion to approve (Robert/Gigi) -passed

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes for April – Motion to approve with correction of errors (Robert/Gigi) – Passed

Committee Items Discussed:

1. **Update on Meeting with BoCC:** Zoom session with Commissioner Tye Menser. Discussed the short membership creates a problem with sub-committees and quorum. Also makes it difficult to discuss new ideas and generating the type of work needed for letters and research. There are two good candidates pending approval. Hopefully the BoCC will get them on board. Commissioner Menser will present information to the BoCC and will try to act as fast as it can to resolve membership issue, and make sure the Ag. Board gets the right members to avoid past difficulties.
2. **Update on makeup of the Ag Committee, what County Ag looks like:** Letter read referring data sets to achieve diversity of representatives of the Agricultural Committee. Information provided to the BoCC in the past, working on update in order to prepare a response.
3. **Update on Community-Driven Review of Agriculture Policies & Programs (Christina Chaput):** Review of the Comprehensive Plan policies effect on agriculture placed on the docket in 2020. This includes a review of land use policies and zoning, development regulations, and incentive programs. Currently pending community input for the 2023 board and planning commission reviews.

4. **Membership Application Discussion:** Current members expressed concerns with limited membership and the BoCC request to provide additional information to diversify the Ag Committee. The information provide should be specific and targeted to add to the diversity skill for the Ag Committee. Having members with diversity skill sets will help the Ag Committee act on various requests with desire and time to serve.
5. **Project Notifications:** #2022102085, recommend premade comments for future land conversion projects.
6. **WSU Extension Update (Stephen Bramwell):**
 - a. SW Washington Growers COOP – submitted a USDA grant for continued funding for the food hub and several other organizations.
 - b. Looking to add Washington grown products into the school markets.
 - c. Food processing grant to create capacity to manufacture minimally process produce.
 - d. July 25th, meet at a creamery to review how the farm lays out the grazing.
 - e. Introduce alternative grains to food manufactures for vegetable-based meals
7. **Thurston Conservation District Update (Sarah Moorhead):** Links to May Newsletter in the chat for review.
 - a. Avian Flu has reached Thurston County. Link in chat.
 - b. Poultry processing rental equipment available at this time. Additional sanitizing being conducted on equipment along with additional protocols.
 - c. District hiring intern position to support farmland preservation, eco studies, and prairie restoration. Open for Veteran studies.
 - d. NRCS working group meeting discussed additional funding for producers within Thurston County.
 - e. Upcoming Events: Forest Enrich Field Day and Working Forest in Eatonville, as part of the Forestry Stewardship series – link below.
 - f. Podcast discussing the latest on climate change and how to be prepared.
 - g. RFP search for property with acres for demonstration and centrally located – link below.
 - h. Sustainable farms and fields. Discussed the criteria for applications, able to get additional equipment and education.
8. **Farm Visit:** Farm walk with Tilt Alliance of Washington coordinating with SW Washington Growers COOP for a visit to Kirsop Farm. Chance to see diverse farming. Late summer (place off 113th) a poultry operation with 3 different management processes for continue grazing, mowing, or leave with the diversity of animal rotation.
9. **Public Comment:** determination to invite BoCC to see about getting their attendance. Discussed there was no decision made on this topic.
10. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn (Robert/Jake) - passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

Next meeting: June 16, 2022 @ 7pm

02:02:42 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD:<https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=682557a3281aee2a980df8e09&id=891d92303b>

02:03:17 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD:<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/avian-health/avian-influenza/bird-flu-2022>

02:06:10 Stephen Bramwell: there may also be a new Webinar recording available soon, it happened tonight, coordinated by OSU: Tonight at 6 p.m. OSU Extension is doing a webinar on "Avian Flu, What to Do"

02:07:26 Joe Hanna: can you share a map?

02:10:02 Joe Hanna: you couldn't get Lacey to give you the park on carpenter ext?

02:14:34 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD:I'm not sure what that is - can you share what that means?

02:16:01 Stephen Bramwell: That would be awesome Jake, when is that?

02:20:14 Jake Yancey: June or July cattle are slated to arrive. and possibly a chance to check it out