Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee October 21, 2021

Meeting Minutes

https://youtu.be/ckzfWCwSupg

ATTENDEES:

<u>Members Present:</u> Joe Hanna (Acting Chair); Pat Labine; Robert McIntosh; Kevin Jensen; Jedidiah Haney; Tom Watson; Jake Yancey; Jesse Honiker; Gigi McClure (scribe)

Members Excused Absent:

Members Absent: Mercy Kariuki-McGee

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

Guest Speaker: Brett Bures (Project Development Manager)

<u>Guests Present:</u> Eric Johnson; Glenn Schorno; Loretta Seppanen; Christina Chaput; Marilyn Sitaker; Helen Wheatley; Peggy Smith

Called to Order:

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:00pm
Attendee Introductions
Approval of Current Agenda – motion to approve (Jed/Robert) -passed
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes for September - motion to approve with correction (Robert/Jed) – passed

Committee Items Discussed:

Opening Comments: Acting Chair (Joe Hanna)

Public Comment: Glenn Schorno provided the committee with his review of Thurston County Shoreline Master Plan. Primary concern with the two-year abandonment rule and the effect on farmers with buffering and loss of future use due to permitting requirements.

- 1. Brett Bures provided a presentation on 'Project Review Timeline' for project notification review and improvements.
- 2. Option other than PDR/TDR are the programs working well? Possible bank of farmland to mitigate loss. If someone wants to change their farmland to other uses, what are the options and should there be a requirement to contribute to the PDR fund. Discuss with the

Commissioners or staff in the future to offer options for those who are unable to continue farming.

- 3. OPMA discussion Committee pending guidance/direction from the BoCC.
- 4. Update on USDA processing facility (Sarah Moorehead & Stephen Bramwell). Conversation about the WSDA grant budget to build a mobile slaughter facility. Limited grant funding so there would be a need for matching fund to support development. Continued conversation with critical partners on slaughter infrastructure and development. There will be a future survey to justify need. Key need for a stable skilled labor force for meat processing.
- 5. **WSU Extension Update** (Stephen Bramwell): Currently wrapping up food hub reporting, and implementation planning. New farmer training program and Veteran farmers on-going. Next spring workshop for on farm grazing opportunities and visits. Food processing work for produce items resulted in funding for a collaboration with a high school on food safety.
- 6. **Thurston Conservation District Update** (Sarah Moorehead, TCD Staff): Newsletter link in chat. Community Farmland Trust is hosting a "How To Prepare For Emergencies On Your Farm" workshop (information/link in chat). Planning to offer another successional planning meeting.
- 7. Shoreline Master Plan Comments are important. The key is no net loss on agricultural production. Continue with open communication with county planning and the Commissioners as well and how the plan may impact existing farmland.
- 8. Agenda item #7 Executive Session was postponed from current agenda and added to the November meeting due to time. Motion (Jed/Robert) passed

Motion to combine Nov/Dec meeting to third Thursday in November. (Jake/Robert) - passed

Other Business:

Project Notifications: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Jed, seconded by Robert. Meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm.

Combined Nov/Dec meeting: November 18, 2021 @ 7pm

To Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83683927768?pwd=QXkyUVF3c3ZkRW9wbXdtNlRIQ1NTUT09

Meeting ID: 836 8392 7768 Passcode: 187681 Local Call in Number 1-253-215-8782 US (Tacoma)

Ag Advisory Committee Chat Log – October 21st, 2021

00:42:18 Christina Chaput: Public hearing comments accepted until 11:59 pm 10/22 you can make comments by going to ThurstonSMP.org

00:44:39 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: andrade

01:16:00 Loretta Seppanen, she/her: The map Jed is referencing was created by a staffer at the TRPC for use in the Ag Review

01:16:42 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: Farmland of National Significance

01:17:16 Loretta Seppanen, she/her: Brett - the layer is available to your staff and the public -

https://trpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=8017537afd164bbcbbc8fed399957256

01:21:40 Loretta Seppanen, she/her: Brett - most of our farmland is on 1-5 zoning not the limited designated ag land. To protect farmland, it is important to look at development on 1-5 zoned land 01:32:40 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: Sounds like a mitigation fee

01:36:15 Loretta Seppanen, she/her: Link to ordinances that require mitigation for farmland loss - mostly CA - https://farmlandinfo.org/law/davis-ca-agricultural-land-mitigation-ordinance/

01:36:33 Loretta Seppanen, she/her: This is related to the information Pat found

01:37:07 Marilyn Sitaker: Thank you Pat, and also Loretta, for sharing relevant resources.

01:38:16 Glenn Schorno: TDR summit was quite informative. King county has it figured out.

01:53:13 Tom Watson: IDK if this would interest anyone here: https://komonews.com/news/nation-world/unhappy-with-prices-ranchers-look-to-build-own-meat-

plants?fbclid=IwAR3n8wW7qo2BgRxaSPbOcqGxgum2l8Dl9ttG3Uj6OpyMxPadZFe6maR0S50

01:54:45 Kevin Jensen: Involve local red meat retailers in this discussion: what do they need? The livestock are here ready to go, get the market ready for us!

01:55:05 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: USDA is supposed to release grants for this as well. Forgot to mention.

01:55:43 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: Yes Kevin - we have some upcoming meetings on the books with processors - we should include retailers as well! Thanks!

01:55:59 Marilyn Sitaker: Sarah will the USDA grant have similar restrictions on using funds for capital improvements?

01:56:48 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: There are supposed to be USDA funds for food processing infrastructure development - no details have been released.

01:56:50 Juqita McClure: I thought the USDA processing facility would also include training focusing farming as well as slaughtering or meat processing.

02:06:51 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: This is exactly the info we're looking for - in addition to capacity needs. Thank you! Feel free to email more info to either Stephen or I: smoorehead@thurstoncd.com

02:12:10 Marilyn Sitaker: Great news about the pilot vegetable processing project at the school

02:13:01 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: https://us9.campaign-

archive.com/?u=682557a3281aee2a980df8e09&id=19e8c73bc6

02:13:23 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: https://www.communityfarmlandtrust.org/events.html

02:24:21 Jake Yancey: no objection

02:25:26 Glenn Schorno: They are forcing us to farm when we may not want to. Similar situation to farmers wasting irrigation water to keep their allotment