

Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee
June 17, 2021

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Members Present: Richard Mankamyer (Chair); Joe Hanna (Vice Chair); Pat Labine; Robert McIntosh; Jake Yancey; Tom Watson; Jesse Honiker.

Members Absent: Gigi McClure - excused; Kevin Jensen; Jed Haney.

Ex Officio Present: Sarah Moorehead (Exec. Dir., TCD); Stephen Bramwell, WSU Ext.

Guest Speaker: Amy Davis (Clerk, Board of County Commissioners)

Guests Present: Ramiro Chavez (County Manager); Glenn Schorno; Jeff Marryman; Nathaniel Jones; Mercy McGee; R Peggy Smith

Called to Order:

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Introductions

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes for May – motion to approve (Jake/Joe) - passed

Approval of Current Agenda – motion to moved up Amy Davis in the agenda (Joe/Richard) - passed

Committee Items Discussed:

1. Opening comments by Committee Chair
2. Clerk, Board of County Commissioners Update (Amy Davis) – Discussed the design and Role of the Ag Committee, meeting behavior and effectiveness expectations. Reminded the Ag Committee that the By-Law are not currently approved by the Board. Also stated the Ag Committee is not subject to the Open Public Meeting Act. Announced that the Board is looking to update information for the Committees to help interested community members who wish to serve.
3. Simplified Roberts Rules of Order – Reviewed the document presented until the County is considering providing a guide/manual on the procedures to follow in a meeting. Motion to adopt the simplified RRO to follow as interim general guidance (Jake/Joe) – passed (1-na)

Link to Cornell University: [Roberts Rules of Order Simplified](#)

4. Meet and greet for the Farmer Member Candidates – Candidates introduced themselves and described why they are interested in joining the Ag Committee and their priorities as a committee member.

5. Meat Processing Sub-Committee Update - The conservation district is key in the development of a meat processing facility (type of facility is key – modular is best as it is expandable) and can meet USDA requirements. Concerns is, can the region support the need? The study demonstrates there is demand for a meat processing facility.
6. Potential visit to Silver Springs Organic Composting Facility – Committee proposed to move visit from July to sometime in August. Richard to confirm with facility to reschedule visit to August on a Saturday.
7. **WSU Extension Update** (Stephen Bramwell): WSU Extension roles as the ex officio and liaison as a subject matter expert. Working as an ex officio, development of the comp plan, farmland conservation, the County’s HCP (Habitat Conservation Plan), market access to sustain farms, new farmer training, meat processing industry gaps. Liaison roles include working with the County for community planning, and county fairgrounds.
8. **Thurston Conservation District Update** (Sarah Moorehead) – June 30 Citizen Advisory Committee applications due. Forester collaboration survey is in the works to help prioritizes practices in the future. Creating a project to expand community space for education and demonstrations to expand services is moving forward.
9. SW WA Food Hub Update – It is operating its first year of wholesale. Running a food security program and wholesale foods from markets within the local area. There are five farmer members who are assisting the policies/grants for the running and operations of the program.

Other Business: Provide By-Laws to the Clerk for the Board of Commissioners to review along with the history of development. Also provided the Simplified RRO.

Public Comment: None

Green Sheet – Rich Road property review to reply. Motion to send letter as written by the Ag Committee related to the property (Jake/Joe) - passed

New Committee Members – Jesse Honiker (Non-Farmer member) and operator of the Food Hub.
News Sharing – **None**

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm to discuss farmer member candidates. Committee voted on two matters, the first to forward two names to the BoCC was defeated 3 for and 4 opposed. The second vote was to forward Glenn Schorno’s name as the recommend farmer member addition and it passed 4 for, 2 opposed and one member abstained. The chair will write a letter of recommendation to the BoCC.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2021

To Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83683927768?pwd=QXkyUVF3c3ZkRW9wbXdtNIRIQ1NTUT09>

