

Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee
October 21, 2021

Meeting Minutes

<https://youtu.be/ckzfWCwSupg>

ATTENDEES:

Members Present: 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)

Guests Present: 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

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 Jujita 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
