

**Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee**

**February 17, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

<https://youtu.be/u-iyvLEIAA0>

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members Present:** Joe Hanna (Chair); Pat Labine; Robert McIntosh; Kevin Jensen; Jake Yancey; Gigi McClure (scribe); Tom Watson

**Members Excused Absent:**

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

**Guest Speaker:** Andrew Deffobis (Thurston County Planning & Economic Development Dept.)

**Guests Present:** Glen Schorno; Chris Doelman; Loretta Seppanen

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**Called to Order:**

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Attendee Introductions

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes for January – Motion to approve (Robert/Pat) – passed

**Committee Items Discussed:**

**1. Farmer Member Candidate Meet and Greet:** Chair stated Applicant Glenn Schorno who would be late to the meeting and relayed information to the Ag Committee. Applicant Chris Doelman introduced himself to the group and discussed expertise he would bring to the committee and property being rezoned.

**2. Executive Session:** Ag Committee met separately for 20 minutes to discuss personnel issues no decisions were made at that time.

Motion to forward a recommendation to the BoCC to elect Glenn Schorno as the farmer member (Jake/Tom) – passed (w/1 opposed, 1 abstention)

Motion to amend the previous motion as a secret ballot (Pat/Robert) – motion failed to pass

Motion to send a letter to the BoCC recommending Chris Doelman be elected as a farmer member (Joe/Tom) – motion failed to pass.

3. **Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) Review** (Andrew Deffobis, CPED): Discussed development standards, and what constitutes abandonment of agricultural activities. Presentation provided informative links.
4. **Election of Vice Chair:** Motion to conduct a vote during open session (Joe/Pat) – passed.

Motion to elect Jake Yancey as Vice Chair (Joe/Tom) - passed.

Gigi agreed to continue as the scribe, will notify Chair when unavailable.

5. **By Laws Proposed Update:** Robert discussed proposed procedural change within the bylaws to guide meeting procedures. Bylaws will be sent out for review again to the Ag Committee prior to the next meeting.
6. **Project Notifications:** All received via email and recommendation forwarded to BoCC Staff.
7. **WSU Extension Update** (Stephen Bramwell): additional information in chat log
  - a. Upcoming March 2, 2022, Grazing Association Webinar will provide an overview of the Rancher Stewardship Alliance.
  - b. Economic study with University of Idaho, balancing new reserves with habitat conservation, and easements. There are good economic impacts through support of the study.
  - c. Ag Grants are still open through the American Rescue Recover Grant for the year.
  - d. Farm business course has started and will be offered again.
8. **Thurston Conservation District Update** (Sarah Moorhead): additional information in chat log
  - a. February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup> = Workshop for “Planning the Future of Your Farm”.
  - b. 2022 TCD supervisor election process underway. Request a ballot from district.
  - c. Newsletter available for information about the district
  - d. New TCD podcast.
  - e. House Bill 1838, conversations will follow to discuss impact on farmland.
9. **Public Comment:** Glen Schorno – House Bill 1838 caused a divide between the farmer and Native Americans, but Thurston County has a good relationship with our native partners and there is common interests and respect.

**Other Business:** Informed of a producer that has some leased ground on Chehalis Nation had implemented a head tax and are in the process of implementing an import tax.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn (Pat/Robert). Meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

