# Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee October 20, 2022

# **Meeting Minutes**

https://youtu.be/tnTLIFFotws

### **ATTENDEES:**

<u>Members Present:</u> Joe Hanna (Chair); Jake Yancey (Vice Chair); Robert McIntosh; Kevin Jensen; Pat Labine; Glenn Schorno; Chris Doelman; Celeste Winther; Gigi McClure (scribe)

# **Members Absent:**

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

**Guest Speakers**: Ashley Arai

**Guests Present:** Gary Kline; Loretta Seppanen; Catherine Carmel; Peggy Smith

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#### Called to Order:

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:05pm
Introductions of members and guests
Approval of Current Agenda – Motion to approve modified agenda (Gigi/Chris) -proposed to add long term Ag Advisory Committee Update to #8 - passed
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes for September 2022 (Robert/Celeste) – passed

### **Committee Items Discussed:**

- 1. **Public Comment:** Glen Shorno provided an update on Personal Property Tax. Please go to the Department of Revenue website and look it up for yourself.
- 2. **A-18 Agricultural Uses Critical Areas Update** (Ashley Arai): General overview of items of the VSP and the Committee's work plan with the Critical Areas Ordinance (Title 24). Looking to develop an Individual Stewardship Program (ISP) or conservation plan like the VSP that will support new farmers. The Planning Commission liked the concept. On November 2, 2022, there will be a public meeting. The Long Term Ag Committee wants to determine the total number of farming acres that needs protection.
- 3. **Proposed Airport Sites (Joe Hanna):** Mega Airport in Thurston County a Real Possibility Best Life Thurston –BoCC wrote a letter that mentioned loss of Ag, pocket gopher, endangered species and the loss of farm ground within the County. A mega airport would affect HCP lands based on the potential lands that could be used as farmland. Further effect on culturally significant lands.

- 4. **BoCC Letter on Improving Agriculture Section of Comp Plan** (Robert McIntosh): The current draft contains information left of the July 2020 issues of concern from the Ag. Committee. Committee fills the draft just needs to fill in the blank for a final review. The sub-committee will take 7 days to complete the draft.
- 5. **Discussion of Future In-Person vs. Zoom vs. Hybrid Meetings** (Joe Hanna): Various recommendations and justifications for in-person, zoom, or hybrid meetings. In-person meetings members want to have an opportunity to talk face to face with other members. Zoom allows for easy access for member/citizens who are unable to drive at night but want to attend a meeting. Hybrid meeting members/citizens have a choice of meetings they want to attend and keep attendance high.
- 6. **WSU Extension Update** (Stephen Bramwell): Docuseries on urban pressure. Link in chat
  - a. Outreach Conservation Plan. Help farmers with selling the land or conservation easement. Reach out to help people with the Conservation Easement Tool. The next meeting is at the Sportsman's Club in Rainier on November 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Agriculture Labor Recovery Session was voted the action down by the BoCC, but approval would allow work force development center do job development to focus money and hire someone to support the agricultural programs. The program is coming up again for another review due to several other discussions.
  - c. Additional information in chat.
- 7. Thurston Conservation District Update (Sarah Moorhead):
  - a. Monthly newsletter in the chat
  - b. Upcoming events are all located in the chat
  - c. Grazing Association meeting will be held in the Kodiak room in Tenino (5:30-7pm) on November 2, 2022 (marketing tools discussion).
  - d. November 7, 2022, Pasture renovation and soil webinar link in the chat
  - e. Native Plant festival and sale link in the chat
  - f. Restoration project tour with the new Policy Advisor to the Governor. Discussed meat processing, bottle necks, repairing buffers and property restoration. Looked at the successes of volunteer stewardship.
  - g. Conservation District Election being held in March 2023. Updates will be provided at a later date.
  - h. Discussion coming up for a Regional Conservation Grants to get funding for working lands easements.
- 8. Long term Ag Advisory Committee Update (Glenn Schorno): Discussion occurred during the update by Ashley Arai.
- 9. **Project Notifications:** 2022105102; 2022100323 (not discussed).
- 10. <u>Adjournment</u>: Motion to adjourn (Robert/Pat) passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.

Next meeting: November 17, 2022 @ 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83683927768?pwd=QXkyUVF3c3ZkRW9wbXdtNIRIQ1NTUT09

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

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# Ag Advisory Committee Chat Log – October 20, 2022

01:06:41 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston Conservation District: Celeste - that is also true for VSP, land operators can sign up for the program too, with land owner approval

01:08:37 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston Conservation District: Hi little one!:)

01:19:14 Ashley Arai: I'm going to jump off and join my littles! Thanks so much and if any other questions come up, please feel free to send them my way.

01:41:46 Loretta Seppanen: Robert, I maybe able to help with data after Nov 1

01:42:37 catherine carmel: Jumping off here. Thank you very much for all you do! I appreciate it!

01:42:47 Joe G. Hanna: thanks for attending

01:45:51 Jake Yancey: I'm in favor of hybrid

01:46:40 Celeste Winther: Hybrid

02:16:29 Stephen Bramwell: These are the facebook pages I made for some of the events Sarah mentioned, but of course you can go to TCD links too and they're probably better!

#### 02:16:31 Stephen Bramwell:

- Pasture soil health workshop: 10am to noon. October 27th, @ Veterans Ecological Trades Collective <a href="https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/event/soil-pastures-workshop/">https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/event/soil-pastures-workshop/</a>
- Fall GA Meeting: 5:30-7pm. November 2nd, Kodiak Room (Tenino, WA) With the Audubon Conservation Ranching Initiative ("bird-friendly" label) <a href="https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/event/grazing-mtg/">https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/event/grazing-mtg/</a>

02:23:00 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston Conservation District: Newsletter: <a href="https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=682557a3281aee2a980df8e09&id=549a88d303">https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=682557a3281aee2a980df8e09&id=549a88d303</a>

#### **Upcoming Events:**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022 AT 10 AM – 12 PM Soil Testing in Pastures Workshop https://fb.me/e/1M5Hv21l8

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022 AT 5:30 PM – 7 PM Pasture Renovation & Soils Webinar <a href="https://fb.me/e/27HOawZB3">https://fb.me/e/27HOawZB3</a>

Native Plant Festival & Sale: pre-orders open now through Jan https://store.thurstoncd.com/