

**Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee**

**November 17, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

<https://youtu.be/ICwGC5oVovc>

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members Present:** Joe Hanna (Chair); Jake Yancey (Vice Chair); Robert McIntosh; Kevin Jensen; Glenn Schorno; Chris Doelman; Celeste Winther; Gigi McClure (scribe); Gary Kline

**Excused Members Absent:** Pat Labine; Stephen Bramwell (WSU, Ex Officio)

**Ex Officio Present:** Sarah Moorehead (Executive Director, TCD Staff)

**Guest Speakers:** Ashley Arai (TCD)

**Guests Present:** Loretta Seppanen; Greg Schoenbachler; Lisa Poma

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**Called to Order:**

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

Introductions of members and guests

Approval of Current Agenda – Motion to approve modified agenda (Move TCD update from #9 to #2, scratch #8 & 9 and change #10 to #9, add #8 Airport memo) (Robert/Gigi) - passed

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes as amended for October 2022 (Robert/Gary) – passed

**Committee Items Discussed:**

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Thurston Conservation District Update** (Sarah Moorhead):
  - a. The latest newsletter added to the chat. Also, a link added regarding the special addition newsletter about updates on the airport.
  - b. Commission Sustainable Farms and Fields funding has been announced with a week to apply. Expect to be successful due to advanced planning. Looking for additional equipment lists.
3. **Applicant Meet & Greet:** Lisa Poma provided some background for the committee.
4. **Executive Session:** Members departed the meeting at 7:39pm to 7:52pm to discuss personnel matters. Additional discussion was tabled, no decisions were made.
5. **County Updates (Ashley Arai):**
  - a. Ground Mound Sub-Area Plan is still moving forward. There are concerns about zone applications and effects on long term agriculture.

- b. Conducting the CPA-16 review with the long-term agriculture participation group. Developing options to protect agriculture under long-term zoning.
  - c. Update to Critical Area Ordinance. First briefing expected in January.
  - d. Thurston 2045 and update to the counties Comp Plan underway. Focusing on Chapter 3, the resource plan.
  - e. Conservation Futures funds balance as of February 2022 projected to be \$8.9 million. With current approved projects, there is around \$8 million available.
6. **BoCC Letter on Improving Agriculture Section of Comp Plan** (Robert McIntosh): Letter was revised with assistance of Loretta Seppanen. Propose Ag Committee approval to send letter to the BoCC to be added to the Comp Plan. Motion made to send the letter with minor changes, however, some members of the Ag Committee want to see additional data to heavily support the proposed changes. No second on the motion provided. Letter will be recirculated to the Ag Committee for another review.
7. **Project Notifications:** Gravel pit in the Grand Mound area. Letter was resent with Ag Committee feedback on the project.
8. **Proposed Airport Site:** Letter to the BoCC on Ag Committee position of the proposed airport sites. The letter to review is a draft to a response of some concerns raised during the last meeting. Letter will be sent to the Ag Committee members for review.
9. **Good of the Order:**
- a. Thurston County members were recognized in Vancouver during the Conservation and Grazing seminar there.
  - b. Greg Schoenbachler was discussing diverse zoning and diverse soils, and how to make the farm more profitable. Also looking at cessation planning and how that may work.
  - c. Gary Kline discussed his notes for ways to improve soil and quality of food products. Will send information to the group.
10. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn (Glenn/Robert) - passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.

**Next meeting:** December 15, 2022 @ 7pm

To

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 – November 17, 2022**

01:10:50 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD:

<https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=682557a3281aee2a980df8e09&id=891660ff12>

01:11:16 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD:

<https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=682557a3281aee2a980df8e09&id=93ccce80f2>

01:21:01 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: Thanks everyone - take care! :)

01:21:15 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: smoorehead@thurstoncd.com is my email if you have any other ideas!

01:55:44 Greg Schoenbachler: Ashley & Loretta, my contact info is:

01:56:02 Greg Schoenbachler: Greg Schoenbachler

01:56:28 Greg Schoenbachler: [greg55tp@gmail.com](mailto:greg55tp@gmail.com)

01:56:43 Greg Schoenbachler: 360-561-0473

02:22:29 Ashley Arai, Thurston County: Here's the survey link for Thurston 2045, comp plan update <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/3nhBsGi/Thurston2045>