

Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee
July 15, 2021

Meeting Minutes

https://youtu.be/zE_E0yjpavQ

ATTENDEES:

Members Present: Richard Mankamyer (Chair); Joe Hanna (Vice Chair); Pat Labine; Robert McIntosh; Jake Yancey; Tom Watson; Jesse Honiker; Kevin Jensen; Gigi McClure (scribe)

Members Absent: Jedidiah Haney

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

Guest Speaker: Jennifer Davis (TC Planning)

Guests Present: Marilyn Sitaker; Glenn Schorno; Mercy Kariuki-McGee; R Peggy Smith; Nathaniel Jones; Dan Calvert; Kathleen Jones

Called to Order:

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Attendee Introductions

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes for June – motion to approve (Robert/Jake) – passed

Approval of Current Agenda – motion to approve (Tom/Jake) -passed

Committee Items Discussed:

1. Update on Community Driven Agriculture project and Green Sheets (Jennifer Davis)
 - a. Zoning and land use – analyzing long term zoning of Ag use. Developing options for public comment.
 - b. Ag Liaison/Coordinator Position – request was submitted for the 2022 budget request. If approve, would hope to look for someone with a deep knowledge of farming.
 - c. Open Space Farming Land Committee. Meeting later in the week to consider items to bring back to the Ag Committee to review for the BoCC.
 - d. Transfer of county development rights. Only bringing in experts into the meeting who understand the TDR program.
 - e. Project Notifications (green sheets) – Developing a link to access to inform lead planner of land use amendments. Will provide an opportunity to weigh in and be a part of the decision-making process. Our Committee is considering increasing the types of proposed land use changes of which we are informed by County Staff.
2. American Rescue Plan (Stephen Bramwell): Provided a slide presentation on the impacts on agricultural needs. What are continuing COVID-19 impacts on Ag businesses and the survey responses. Glenn Schorno discussed the transportation impacts on international trade.

Stephen also discussed recovery fund – who is qualified, how to access applications. Stated there are funds in reserve for ground prep for a USDA facility under the Conservation Grant.

3. **WSU Extension Update** (Stephen Bramwell): Congratulation for 5 years of service to the WSU Extension Program.
4. **Thurston Conservation District Update** (Sarah Moorehead):
 - a. Provided a link in the chat for the July Newsletter
 - b. City of Olympia and Farmland Trust to support farmland preservation. Conversation has expanded at the city level and looking for funding to preserve our local farms,
5. Sentinel Landscape Partnership (SLP). Richard gave a briefing to this partnership on the Ag Committee activities, the ag survey and the various project we are working on. Discussed the USDA meat processing facility, renewable farming. Also introduced Dan Calvert (SLP New Coordinator)
6. Reminder to the Ag Committee of our briefing to BoCC on Aug 4, 1pm, to provide a yearly report. Robert to provide information collected over the past few years for the Committee to review and provide feedback for the development of a slide presentation.
7. In Person Meetings – Ag Committee to consider several options once it is determined group meetings are now authorized and what are those restrictions (in person, remain on-line, or a combination of both).
8. Meeting in August – There will be no meeting in August as agreed within the Ag Committee By-Laws. Annual briefing for the BoCC is set for August 4.

Other Business:

Project Notifications (aka Green Sheets): No more green sheets, none for review.

News Sharing – Stephen spoke with Aslan regarding the Ag Park in Tenino, and there is still a lot of interest in its development. One concern was with the water use and the environmental impact on the area. Looking into recycling processes for the area.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm to discuss farmer member candidates.

The regular scheduled meeting was adjourned so that the committee could discuss candidates for the open farmer member position. The committee had discussion on each candidate and there were two votes. The first vote was based on a motion to forward all three names to the BOCC and subsequently was amended to forward two names. This motion failed 4 against and 3 for. A second motion was made to forward just one name and this motion passed. The vote was 4 for, 2 against and 1 abstention. The committee recommended Glenn Schorno.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2021 @ 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)

Ag Advisory Committee Chat Log – July 15th, 2021

00:29:55 Nicole Ross: Here is the link for the Ag page that hosts the Committee minutes. Meeting minutes are uploaded within a week after approval from the Committee.
<https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/permitting/agriculture/agriculture-committee.html>

00:35:42 Joe Hanna: WELCOME TO ALL OF THOSE THAT HAVE JOINED SINCE WE STARTED!

00:38:08 Sarah Moorehead: I vote Kevin! ;)

00:56:10 Joe Hanna: JAKE IS UP

01:01:02 Sarah Moorehead: That's the requirements for the Open Space program

01:02:47 Loretta Seppanen: The Dept of Ag map could be used for the permit office to determine when the planning staff looks for farmland that could be converted.

01:10:37 Jennifer Davis, Thurston County Planning Mgr: Here is the County's amendment and docketing process described:
<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning/planningdocuments/Thurston%20County%20Amendment%20Steps.pdf>

01:11:13 Marilyn Sitaker: Yes please post or share a link to the UW/WSU study someplace.

01:26:35 Sarah Moorehead: We look forward to supporting outreach around this when this opportunity is open!

01:27:53 Mercy Kariuki-McGee (Shirros Plate/Haki Farmers Collective): Last year criteria for selection was very limiting.

01:28:47 Jake Yancey: <https://www.thurstonstrong.org/tag/small-business-grants/>

01:30:13 Jake Yancey: great idea Joe

01:30:24 Sarah Moorehead: I like that!

01:31:43 Joe Hanna: Jesse you on the board now, jump in when get the chance.

01:36:33 Jake Yancey: I would like to see costs include "projected" costs. Our livestock harvest, and subsequent income, only comes in late fall, thus some of our costs are not accrued until harvest- which won't be most likely until post grant window

01:38:42 Jake Yancey: I would also like to see a portable loading chute available for rent

01:39:12 Jake Yancey: loading chute!

01:40:02 Sarah Moorehead: <https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=682557a3281aee2a980df8e09&id=990322a176>

01:45:32 Sarah Moorehead: CONGRATULATIONS STEPHEN!!

01:46:04 Jake Yancey: great work Stephen!

01:46:43 Sarah Moorehead: More info on the Olympia Farmland Preservation Workgroup recommendations can be found here: <https://olympia.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=833115&GUID=EB92A10B-92DC-4234-98B2-930C68345E59&Options=info|&Search=>

01:48:42 Stephen Bramwell: Mentioned I would post this UW-WSU study on COVID impacts on Ag:

01:48:44 Stephen Bramwell: <https://nutr.uw.edu/resource/wa-farm-brief-1-covid-19-impacts-adaptations-among-washington-state-farm-businesses/>

01:52:29 Sarah Moorehead: Mentioned in my report - More info about the Voluntary Stewardship Program here: <https://www.thurstoncd.com/working-lands/vsp/>

01:58:14 Jesse (she/her) SW WA Food Hub: I plan on attending

02:03:21 Sarah Moorehead: They farm bureau has that capability - maybe that could be a backup location?

02:03:33 Jake Yancey: I'm all for in person

02:06:30 Jake Yancey: no objection, lots of stuff going on

02:09:52 Sarah Moorehead: Traffic and rural character were community concerns I heard.

02:14:55 Dan Calvert: Thanks, all!