

Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee

May 18th, 2023

Meeting Minutes

<https://youtu.be/DlvghUXi6i4>

Attendees:

Members Present:

Joe Hanna (Chair); Jake Yancey (Vice Chair); Pate Labine; Chris Doelman; Stella Waxwing, Greg Schoenbachler; Glenn Schorno, Robert McIntosh; Celeste Winther; Gary Kline; Ex Officio Present: Stephen Bramwell (WSU Extension)

Excused: Kevin Jensen

Guests Present:

Marguerite Afledtt (Thurston County Conservation District), Ashley Aria

Meeting Called to order 1900 hours

-Introductions

-Motion made to accept Agenda M-S-P (Moved, Seconded, (discussed) Passed)

-Motion made to accept Meeting Minutes from April M-S-P

Committee Business:

-Public Comment

- Gary Kline, made a general request regarding WSU Thurston County Extension Programs and any help that the Committee may be able to offer. Stephen Bramwell will consider and respond at later time

-Meeting Scribe

- Monthly scribes set. Robert need to set January 2024 scribe by November, since December we normally do not have a meeting
- Stella; May minutes will be Jake

-Meet and Greet with Ex-Officio member applicant

- applicant unable to attend

(Executive session)

-Thurston County Agriculture Zoning Code Amendment (Ashley Aria)

- Zoning Code update. 2nd Zoning Sub-Committee Session held. Public Hearing June 21st
- Discussion on “Prime” soils/ soil types and “Irrigated” land/ water rights as determining factor for expansion of Agriculture Zoning, and “Commercially Significant” agriculture properties held. No motions made
- Agriculture Tourism Committee Chair has requested to set up a “Mixer” with all the other Committee’s

-Setting up Sub-Committee’s (Robert)

- Refreshing of “Working lands strategic plan.” No motion made
- Purchase of Development Rights, Transfer of Development Rights. June meeting will start **10 minutes early 1850 hours (Jo Hanna)**
- Land access hurdles for farmers (Gary Kline). Freedom Farms using Olympia High School property (near Yelm Hwy.) discussed as one example of land access being limited. No motion made

-Bylaw Recommendation Changes for Ex-Officio Member (Jo, Robert)

- -Revise 2nd Sentence, 3rd Paragraph, Article 2, of the Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee’s by-laws
“Current ex-officio members are: 1) the WSU Thurston County Extension Director; 2) a representative from the Thurston Conservation District; 3)the Thurston County Agricultural Community Manager; 4) a Youth Member (20yrs old, or younger) from 4-H, FFA, or other youth Farming Youth Organizations, serving a one year term.”
Motion to Approve M-S-P (unanimous)

Bylaw recommendation changes for Qualification of “Farmer Members” (Glenn)

- -Revise bylaw definition of “Farmer Member” to read:

“One that engages in the business of growing and raising well produced agricultural products as defined by Washington State Law RCW 82.04.213 for the sale that person’s own land, or land which the person has a present right of possession, and generates a good sales of Agricultural Products, which the person or manager, has grown, raised, or produced, at least \$10,000 dollars per year, in the tax year immediately before the year of application for a Farmer member position, or has at least 5 acres of plantation Christmas trees, or short rotation softwoods as defined in RCW 84.33.035, using Agricultural Methods.”

Motion to Approve M-S-P (not unanimous)

- Discussion regarding revision of “Farmer Member” does not allow for Robert to fit the newly proposed “Farmer Member” definition

-Bylaw Recommendation change to add a “Forestry Position.” Substitute one “Non-farmer” position to “Forestry Position,” when the next non-farmer member position becomes open (Glenn)

- Motion M-S-P

-Agenda item to propose adding a “Forestry Position” to the current membership roster at June Meeting (Jake)

In-persons vs. Remote Meeting attendance (Jo)

- In-person attendance is intent of being on the board. Please attend

WSU Extension (Stephen)

- Funding becoming available for Farm/Ranch managers to assist with Farm Labor costs (approx. \$20,000/per employee).

Thurston County Conservation District (Marguerite Afledtt)

- No-till drill demo will be available via TCCD.

Good of the Order

- (Jo) Spoke with Mayor Tenino who is intent on putting a USDA Processing Facility in the “Ag Park” in Tenino
- (Celeste) Thurston County Youth Market Sale is fast approaching. Lots of Beef Steers. Pigs, Steers, Lambs, Goats, Rabbits all will be auctioned off.

Sale date is July 29th at 1700 hours in Thurston County Fair “Hicks Lake Barn” (TCYMAS on Facebook)

-Adjournment M-S-P