

Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee

March 18, 2021*

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Members Present: Richard Mankamy (Chair); Joe Hanna (Vice Chair); Pat Labine; Robert McIntosh; Gigi McClure (Scribe); Tom Watson; Jedidiah Haney; Kevin Jensen.

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

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

Guest Speaker: Jennifer Davis; Andrew Deffobis

Guests Present: Miriam Villancian (TCCP); Peggy Smith, Jake Yancey; Carolina Mejia (TC Commissioner); Chris Doleman (Dairy Gold Board Member/Dairy Farmer); Marilyn Sitaker (Evergreen State College); Linda Powell; Michael Ambrogi (TRPC), R Peggy Smith (League of Women Voters); Valerie Smith-Commerce; Charlene Andrade (JBLM SLP); Frania Zgorski; Helen Wheatley (Conservation District); Marcie Cleaver; Francis Beard; Loretta Seppanen.

Called to Order:

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

This is a Special Phone/Online meeting via Zoom. **Login Below.**

Introductions

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Robert/Joe) – motion passed

Approval of Current Agenda – agenda with updates approved

*motion to postpone the viewing of the video on farmworkers speaking out on the overtime ruling proposed. (“SaveFamilyFarming.Org”) – (Jedidiah /Pat), with Tom recommended a counter video if available - motion passed

*Change the date to 18th.

*Strike item #2. (WA Senate Bill 5045)

Committee Items Discussed:

1. Jennifer Davis Thurston County Planning: Community Agriculture Survey review of draft survey report responses. Pending review of response and raw data. Committee members invited to provide feedback on responses.
2. Farmland - Agriculture land use/loss. Robert recommended doing more than “saving what we have, we may need more”. Marilyn Sitaker proposed that additional future farming needs have been identified and if isolated the area would not be able to support only 43% of the population, so our area is under performing.
3. Marcie discussed JBLM is looking for local farmers to establish a farmer’s market, and only 2 farmers responded to the request. Please contact Marci for information for the JBLM farmer’s market. Also, DuPont sent a request also for a new farmer’s market, and people want to eat fresh food, but not enough farmers to support the requests.
4. Joe proposed the committee consider Agriculture loss as catastrophic. Jedidiah stated he has a letter that could be revitalized to be sent to the Commissioners. A sub-committee was formed to review. Richard to send the “Farmland Loss Report” to the sub-committee.

00:38:51 Tom Watson: how not to run a zoom meeting:
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=zoom+meeting+im+not+a+cat&&view=detail&mid=F5577F2A211DF42B921FF5577F2A211DF42B921F&&FORM=VRD GAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dzoom%2Bmeeting%2Bim%2Bnot%2Ba%2Bcat%26FORM%3DHDRSC3>

00:45:57 Loretta Seppanen: The bill under question ESSB 5172 was significantly changed when it passed the Senate on March 9. Any comments prior to that date are probably out of date given the changes which phase in overtime and protect farmers from back pay for overtime

00:54:55 Joe Hanna: here is link to the video for anyone that is interested:
[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fsavefamilyfarming.org%2Ffarm-workers-speak-out-against-state-overtime-ruling%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3lwRh11is41zLnOfCj-XXdxcBzs0ZpBeHujuH8FVpFNog5a3Y2ccmFsns&h=AT1NxzzoAEL8AiCSFzXjoHkBsGIBNJSvYjhZxV8eDRvg93USITnVU3PhkkeT0wnp9a3l_1TGDREGW-kaczle8RrcN_kh4q4Feum9n1gRwthJDjmw-HHpVqxChgHeqN3fNvHB3GloO549xdUpdqc2&_tn=-UK-R&c\[0\]=AT1ViamE_iuDTXeB84Bez8Y3VICWslO2loge8CT7gQZ8IRVawCMLzTslcLEWnJWAQJKdbF4U1CeYFBoHX8TjURFC7GHJ9rT0fXXlgemEqJUPI0aaKGjypeAgFzY_C62NwJX-Vuvj73gBsOg7_1eSa_Oxdt_WpuQ7KoGFwKxBRKv36ZNRh7hQfJTzJBVpApMTKINQsWie](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fsavefamilyfarming.org%2Ffarm-workers-speak-out-against-state-overtime-ruling%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3lwRh11is41zLnOfCj-XXdxcBzs0ZpBeHujuH8FVpFNog5a3Y2ccmFsns&h=AT1NxzzoAEL8AiCSFzXjoHkBsGIBNJSvYjhZxV8eDRvg93USITnVU3PhkkeT0wnp9a3l_1TGDREGW-kaczle8RrcN_kh4q4Feum9n1gRwthJDjmw-HHpVqxChgHeqN3fNvHB3GloO549xdUpdqc2&_tn=-UK-R&c[0]=AT1ViamE_iuDTXeB84Bez8Y3VICWslO2loge8CT7gQZ8IRVawCMLzTslcLEWnJWAQJKdbF4U1CeYFBoHX8TjURFC7GHJ9rT0fXXlgemEqJUPI0aaKGjypeAgFzY_C62NwJX-Vuvj73gBsOg7_1eSa_Oxdt_WpuQ7KoGFwKxBRKv36ZNRh7hQfJTzJBVpApMTKINQsWie)

00:56:18 Joe Hanna: <https://savefamilyfarming.org/farm-workers-speak-out-against-state-overtime-ruling/?fbclid=IwAR3lwRh11is41zLnOfCj-XXdxcBzs0ZpBeHujuH8FVpFNog5a3Y2ccmFsns>

00:56:30 Joe Hanna: sorry wrong link above here is the direct one.

00:56:40 Joe Hanna: <https://savefamilyfarming.org/farm-workers-speak-out-against-state-overtime-ruling/?fbclid=IwAR3lwRh11is41zLnOfCj-XXdxcBzs0ZpBeHujuH8FVpFNog5a3Y2ccmFsns>

01:10:13 Loretta Seppanen: Could we ask the Miriam to do several cross tabs to add more information from the survey?

01:12:37 Marcie Cleaver: can non board members comment now?

01:26:29 Kevin Jensen: Sorry I'm late cows were out! Story of my life!

01:29:26 Jake Yancey - TrackingYRanch: most respondents said they were not interested in selling property, while the survey said most respondents valued keeping land in ag. These two views I believe don't accurately represents large blocks of land are being removed (development or rezoning) from ag. long-term solutions are needed to address purchase price of land for new farmers.

01:40:11 Miriam Villacian: Just the people who gave us their email addresses. I can match their responses with their address.

01:51:05 Marilyn Sitaker: Well said, Sarah. Thanks for bringing up those good points.

01:53:11 Joe Hanna: yes thanks Sarah!

01:53:46 Linda Powell: great idea sarah!

01:56:28 Marcie Cleaver: JBLM is starting a farmers market for their residents and employees (lots of potential customers) on base. It will be on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 7:00pm. Anyone interested in

getting the farmers market package of information can contact me at gairhart@comcast.net. I will forward the information.

- 01:58:48 Sarah Moorehead, TCD Staff: maya.teeple@co.thurston.wa.us
- 02:09:03 Sarah Moorehead, TCD Staff: I see Mr. Doelman is on this call, would he be comfortable in sharing his perspective with the committee? Is that appropriate Richard?
- 02:20:28 frania zgorski: relationships with farmers... . period.
- 02:33:19 Chris Doelman: Thank you all for your time. I'm going to tuck my kids into bed.
- 02:33:49 Jennifer Davis, Thurston County Planning Mgr: Thank you to all for this amazing conversation tonight. I have really appreciated it.
- 02:33:55 kevin jensen: Thank you Chris
- 02:34:07 Sarah Moorehead, TCD Staff: <https://www.thurstoncd.com/about-us/2021-regular-appointment/>
- 02:34:08 Joe Hanna: thanks Chris
- 02:34:22 Sarah Moorehead, TCD Staff: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Blog/Posts/March-2021/Boots-on-the-ground-AmeriCorps-members-support-Sko>
- 02:34:55 Sarah Moorehead, TCD Staff: <https://www.thurstontalk.com/2021/03/03/teamwork-brings-yelm-community-garden-to-life-with-veteran-support/>
- 02:35:14 Sarah Moorehead, TCD Staff: <https://www.thurstoncd.com/working-lands/soil-testing/>
- 02:37:31 kevin jensen: Yes! We need a Chehalis basin water bank!
- 02:38:39 Eric Johnson: water rights can only be transfered up river.
- 02:39:34 Sarah Moorehead, TCD Staff: My pleasure all!
- 02:40:58 Eric Johnson: so mutch for.public.comment