

Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee

November 18, 2021

Meeting Minutes

<https://youtu.be/ynUKIFpT8g8>

ATTENDEES:

Members Present: Joe Hanna (Acting Chair); Pat Labine; Robert McIntosh; Kevin Jensen; Jedidiah Haney; Tom Watson; Jake Yancey; Jesse Honiker

Members Excused Absent:

Members Absent: Gigi McClure (scribe); Mercy Kariuki-McGee

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

Guest Speaker: Andrew Deffobis (Thurston County Planning & Economic Development Dept.)

Guests Present: Glen Schorno; Michael Ambrogi (TCD)

Called to Order:

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Attendee Introductions

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes for October - motion to approve as corrected (Jed/Robert) – passed

Committee Items Discussed:

Opening Comments: Acting Chair (Joe Hanna)

Public Comment:

1. Executive session scheduled break.
2. Open Space Tax Program (Andrew Deffobis): Brought forth issues for recommendations to the Ag Committee for continued discussion.
3. Nominations for Election: Reviewed election by-laws related to nominations. Considerations for Chair, Vice Chair Motion to start with nominations during the meeting with continued nominations into the January meeting. (Jake/Jesse), 1 opposed. Motion passed.

- a. *Nominations for Chair*: Joe Hanna, Kevin Jensen, Robert McIntosh (declined), Mercy Kariuki-McGee.
 - b. *Nominations for Vice-Chair*: Kevin Jensen, Jake Yancey, Jesse Honiker, Jedidiah Haney.
 - c. *By-Law compliance Officer*: Robert McIntosh
4. **WSU Extension Update** (Stephen Bramwell):
- a. Follow-up on Western Sierra Grassing Studies helping to grow food and preserve habitat.
 - b. Thurston Strong has released the Ag Grant for continued negative impact due to COVID-19 (more information to the application page in the chat).
 - c. America Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding Update – funding set aside by Thurston County for labor shortages.
5. **Thurston Conservation District Update** (Sarah Moorehead, TCD Staff):
- a. Reviewing other funding sources to expand farming equipment rental.
 - b. Department of Ecology (DOC) is proposing revisions to policy to divert stock water to protect water quality, one potential issue may be drawing of surface water (additional information found in chat).

Other Business:

Project Notifications: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn (Tom/Kevin). Meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.

Next meeting: January 20, 2022 @ 7pm

To Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83683927768?pwd=QXkyUVF3c3ZkRW9wbXdtdNIRIQ1NTUT09>

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

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**Ag Advisory Committee Meeting Chat Log – November 18th, 2021**

- 00:29:56 Jesse Honiker (she/her): I apologize for being late! I was having some internet issues.
- 00:30:12 Tom Watson: Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th edition, the most widely used authority for the procedure in running meetings, states that board meetings are open by right only to the members of the board, and any staff or advisers whom they choose to invite (see excerpt below). In other words, a membership association or a charitable nonprofit organization that is governed by a board is not required to open its board meetings ...
- 01:15:06 Jesse Honiker (she/her): You can get ahold of Steven if you are interested in join the Hub or getting more info.
- 01:24:38 Christina Chaput: Open Space Fees are 1,616 as of Jan 1, 2021

01:28:46 Loretta Seppanen: Median farm size is 14 acres for completing the Ag Census, so the 20 acres would be less than half all farms eligible.

02:09:39 Stephen Bramwell: <https://www.thurstonstrong.org/guidelines-thurston-strong-small-business-grant/>

02:10:09 Jake Yancey: thank you Stephen for sharing this!

02:14:21 Glenn Schorno: Excellent article in Capital Press!! Thanks for bringing that up Stephen.

02:15:09 Joe Hanna: Stephen can you cite the person again in the Capital Press article, here in chat.

02:15:31 Stephen Bramwell: Yes, Rebecca Thistlewaite, and I'll post the link to the article here in a moment.

02:15:44 Joe Hanna: thanks

02:16:02 Stephen Bramwell: [https://www.capitalpress.com/ag\\_sectors/livestock/meat-plant-startups-face-barriers-what-are-the-solutions/article\\_8d5f1f26-3c0d-11ec-ab19-bfe42d61e458.html](https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/livestock/meat-plant-startups-face-barriers-what-are-the-solutions/article_8d5f1f26-3c0d-11ec-ab19-bfe42d61e458.html)

02:17:15 Sarah Moorehead: [https://apps.wa.gov/ecology/docs/WaterRights/wrwebpdf/DRAFT-POL-1025-revised.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://apps.wa.gov/ecology/docs/WaterRights/wrwebpdf/DRAFT-POL-1025-revised.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

02:17:30 Sarah Moorehead:

[https://wr.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=KeBg5&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://wr.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=KeBg5&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

02:20:12 Sarah Moorehead: Since the meeting is still going - I can stay for your question Glenn!