

Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee

October 20, 2022

Meeting Minutes

<https://youtu.be/tnTLIFFotws>

ATTENDEES:

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

Members Absent:

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

Guest Speakers: Ashley Arai

Guests Present: Gary Kline; Loretta Seppanen; Catherine Carmel; Peggy Smith

Called to Order:

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:05pm
Introductions of members and guests
Approval of Current Agenda – Motion to approve modified agenda (Gigi/Chris) -proposed to add long term Ag Advisory Committee Update to #8 - passed
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes for September 2022 (Robert/Celeste) – passed

Committee Items Discussed:

1. **Public Comment:** Glen Shorno provided an update on Personal Property Tax. Please go to the Department of Revenue website and look it up for yourself.
2. **A-18 Agricultural Uses – Critical Areas Update** (Ashley Arai): General overview of items of the VSP and the Committee’s work plan with the Critical Areas Ordinance (Title 24). Looking to develop an Individual Stewardship Program (ISP) or conservation plan like the VSP that will support new farmers. The Planning Commission liked the concept. On November 2, 2022, there will be a public meeting. The Long Term Ag Committee wants to determine the total number of farming acres that needs protection.
3. **Proposed Airport Sites (Joe Hanna):** [Mega Airport in Thurston County a Real Possibility – Best Life Thurston](#) –BoCC wrote a letter that mentioned loss of Ag, pocket gopher, endangered species and the loss of farm ground within the County. A mega airport would affect HCP lands based on the potential lands that could be used as farmland. Further effect on culturally significant lands.

4. **BoCC Letter on Improving Agriculture Section of Comp Plan** (Robert McIntosh): The current draft contains information left of the July 2020 issues of concern from the Ag. Committee. Committee fills the draft just needs to fill in the blank for a final review. The sub-committee will take 7 days to complete the draft.
5. **Discussion of Future In-Person vs. Zoom vs. Hybrid Meetings** (Joe Hanna): Various recommendations and justifications for in-person, zoom, or hybrid meetings. In-person meetings – members want to have an opportunity to talk face to face with other members. Zoom – allows for easy access for member/citizens who are unable to drive at night but want to attend a meeting. Hybrid meeting – members/citizens have a choice of meetings they want to attend and keep attendance high.
6. **WSU Extension Update** (Stephen Bramwell): Docuseries on urban pressure. Link in chat
 - a. Outreach Conservation Plan. Help farmers with selling the land or conservation easement. Reach out to help people with the Conservation Easement Tool. The next meeting is at the Sportsman’s Club in Rainier on November 9th.
 - b. Agriculture Labor Recovery Session was voted the action down by the BoCC, but approval would allow work force development center do job development to focus money and hire someone to support the agricultural programs. The program is coming up again for another review due to several other discussions.
 - c. Additional information in chat.
7. **Thurston Conservation District Update** (Sarah Moorhead):
 - a. Monthly newsletter in the chat
 - b. Upcoming events are all located in the chat
 - c. Grazing Association meeting will be held in the Kodiak room in Tenino (5:30-7pm) on November 2, 2022 (marketing tools discussion).
 - d. November 7, 2022, Pasture renovation and soil webinar – link in the chat
 - e. Native Plant festival and sale – link in the chat
 - f. Restoration project tour with the new Policy Advisor to the Governor. Discussed meat processing, bottle necks, repairing buffers and property restoration. Looked at the successes of volunteer stewardship.
 - g. Conservation District Election being held in March 2023. Updates will be provided at a later date.
 - h. Discussion coming up for a Regional Conservation Grants to get funding for working lands easements.
8. **Long term Ag Advisory Committee Update** (Glenn Schorno): Discussion occurred during the update by Ashley Arai.
9. **Project Notifications:** 2022105102; 2022100323 (not discussed).
10. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn (Robert/Pat) - passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.

Next meeting: November17, 2022 @ 7pm

Native Plant Festival & Sale:
pre-orders open now through Jan
<https://store.thurstoncd.com/>