

**Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee**  
**September 15, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**  
[https://youtu.be/gful\\_LjX7mk](https://youtu.be/gful_LjX7mk)

**ATTENDEES:**

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

**Members Excused Absence:** Gigi McClure (scribe)

**Ex Officio Present:** Sarah Moorehead (Executive Director, TCD Staff)

**Guest Speakers:** Ashley Arai; Gary Kline

**Guests Present:** Helen Wheatley; Loretta Seppanen; Eric Johnson, Marcie Cleaver,  
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**Called to Order:**

Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Introductions of members and guests

Approval of Current Agenda – Motion to approve modified agenda (Chris/Kevin) -proposed change #6 to introduce Ashley - passed

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes for July 2022 with two minor changes (Chris/Robert) – passed

**Committee Items Discussed:**

1. **Public Comment:** Helen Wheatley wanted to let the Ag Committee know that the Planning Commission is currently looking at the Grand Mound sub-area plan and asked Ashley and Stephen come in to discuss the needs of the community of the South County.
2. **Meet and Greet New Candidate:** Introduced Gary Kline as an applicant for Non-Farmer Member. Conducted a question and answer session.
3. **Executive Session:** Members enter into a discuss candidate and no decisions were made. Return to meeting for a motion - recommend Gary Kline for a Non-Farmer position on the committee (Robert/Kevin) - passed
4. **Proposed Airport Site:** Topic for the Ag. Committee awareness and possible effects on local farming. If approved, what is the effect of high-quality soils in the area, and what land will be acquired.
5. **Proposed Committee Handbook:** All committees will follow the Open Public Meeting Act. Non-quorum size sub-committees may work on project and utilize Nicole to meet

requirements for distribution. Maintain current practice to meet criteria. Pending required training.

6. **Introduction of Ashley Arai:** the newly selected Agriculture Community Program Manager introduces herself to the Ag Committee. Provided some background and challenges on agriculture.
7. **Project Notifications:** None
8. **Future In-Person Meetings:** Possibly begin with a hybrid meeting that would allow guests to continue to attend. There are benefits to the zoom meetings as it appears easier, drive time, fuel costs, more active participation.
9. **WSU Extension (Kevin Jensen):** Docuseries on urban pressure. Link in chat
10. **Thurston Conservation District Update (Sarah Moorhead):**
  - a. Workshops covered in link
  - b. Hiring another farm planner
  - c. Reduced waiting list of Farmers waiting for service and targeted outreach in the future.
  - d. Working with DNR and fire authority boundary, looking at wildfire recovery to reduce risk of wildfires and assessment.
  - e. Funded to begin conservation reserve enhancement projects.
  - f. Fail soil testing. Podcast is coming out.
  - g. Annual Harvest Festival for the Conservation District. Information in chat.
11. **Personal Property Taxes on Farm Equipment (Glenn Schorno):** Farm equipment can be applied for tax exemption each year, but you have to apply. Farm equipment is taxed at the same rate as land. Maybe the new Agriculture Community Program Manager can look into this tax for farmers.
12. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn (Robert/Glenn) - passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

**Next meeting:** October 20, 2022 @ 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)

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### **Ag Advisory Committee Chat Log – September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

00:39:38 Ashley Arai, Thurston County: Thanks for squeezing me in!

01:08:13 Joe G. Hanna: about 5 more minutes everyone...just heads up

01:43:59 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD:Some of the areas listed include high quality prairie habitat and lots of ESA listed species as well as agriculture.

01:45:00 Eric Johnson: is there a link to proposed sites

01:45:16 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: [Mega Airport in Thurston County a Real Possibility – Best Life Thurston](#)

01:45:29 Joe G. Hanna: [Mega Airport in Thurston County a Real Possibility – Best Life Thurston](#)

01:45:53 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD:Two sites are linked at this link - 'Thurston Central' and 'Thurston South'

01:46:16 Eric Johnson: thanks

01:46:40 Ashley Arai, Thurston County: Here's a WSDOT presentation that compares all of the potential sites [PowerPoint Presentation \(bestlifethurston.com\)](#)

01:46:55 Helen Wheatley: I think the airport open house closed last week.

01:47:03 Helen Wheatley: I mean the comment period.

01:54:21 Celeste Winther: Welcome Ashley!

02:02:01 Jake Yancey: Great to have you on board Ashley

02:03:59 Ashley Arai, Thurston County: I appreciate the warm welcome--thank you!

02:04:38 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD:Hybrid is great! Thanks!

02:05:21 Loretta Seppanen, she/her: Glad to hear about the hybrid for us guests at least

02:11:29 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: [General 1 – The Peri-Urban Agriculture Network \(periurbanagriculture.org\)](#)

02:11:47 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD:Docuseries Kevin is talking about

02:12:42 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: [Thurston Conservation District September Newsletter \(campaign-archive.com\)](#)

02:18:26 Joe G. Hanna: do you need judges for pie contest

02:18:48 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: [Harvest Festival – Thurston Conservation District \(thurstoncd.com\)](#)

02:25:41 Ashley Arai, Thurston County: [Personal Property Tax \(wa.gov\)](#)

02:26:37 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD:Thanks for the link Ashley!

02:27:14 Helen Wheatley: [Sales and use tax exemptions | Washington Department of Revenue](#)

02:27:35 Joe G. Hanna: thanks Helen

02:28:20 Helen Wheatley: [Agriculture tax guide | Washington Department of Revenue](#)

02:29:04 Helen Wheatley: [FarmExemptionTaxMatrix.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

02:31:02 Loretta Seppanen, she/her: [AppForExmptMachEquip.doc \(live.com\)](#)

02:31:39 Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD: Great links from Helen and Loretta on exemptions! Check them out! :)