

**Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee**  
**December 17, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members Present:** Richard Mankamyer (Chair); Joe Hanna (Vice Chair); Robert McIntosh, Jed Haney, Gigi McClure (Scribe), Pat LaBine. Member excused: Tom Watson, Kevin Jensen.

**Ex-Officio Member Present:** Sarah Moorehead (TCD)

**Guest Speaker:** Jennifer Davis (Thurston County Planning Manager)

**Guests Present:** Eric Johnson, Jake Yancey, Linda Powell

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Richard Mankamyer.

Introductions

Approval of previous minutes- Robert identified minor changes, TJ should be listed as a guest. (Robert/Joe) – Approved

Approval of current agenda – Joe added #9 Open Public Meeting Act (Robert/Joe) - Approved

**COMMITTEE ITEMS:**

1. Jennifer Davis of Thurston County wrapped up the draft community Ag Survey. Received several comments to finalize survey. Adding choices for the incentive and ranking layout. As there were no additional content changes – will move forward with the survey. Format change Joe suggested consistency, but Richard would like to see the survey one more time. Discussed distribution to as many people as possible. Aim for distribution after the New Year.
2. Reviewed of the Thurston County’s permit-exempt for agricultural buildings. Jennifer would like to draw upon a committee to draw upon county staff to start the scoping process to address. Recommend cc:’ing Brett Bures whose people have the engineering expertise, and Jennifer Davis at Community Planning. (Joe/Robert) – Motion approved
3. Attendance – There is a policy related to by-law related to attendance. When doing the minutes, members should be shown as in attendance, excused, or unexcused. Communicate with the Chair if member would not be in attendance.
4. Scribes for 2021 – Gigi was identified as the primary scribe and will notify the Chair when she is unable to scribe during a meeting.

5. By-Law Changes – (Robert) Proposed that under article 2 membership, sentence on appointing alternates should be deleted. Proposed that absences must be approved by the Chair, WSU Director or Administrative Assistant. Suggested changes will be reviewed and revised at the January meeting prior to adoption at the February meeting.
6. Tree Farm Tour – Suggested touring sometime in the next few months. Pat recommended asking the commissioners to attend the tour as well. Richard recommended touring other farms like cattle farm. Jed stated he could coordinate a cannabis farm tour as well.
7. Agricultural Committee on YouTube – Nicole uploads meetings to YouTube. The Sentinel Landscape Partnership now has a Facebook page.
8. Public Comment – Joe reminded the public that the Ag Advisory Committee is appointed by the TC Commissioners, and are here to advise the Commissioners. It is important that we have input from the public, and that the public provide comments only during the ‘Public Comment’ and that we limit the time for each comment to keep the meeting productive.
9. Open Public Meetings Act – Joe found that the Ag Committee is not subject to the open public meeting act, but we do take public comments. Committee welcomes the public to all meeting. Jed supports the need for public comments and believes there should be a time limit and that comments should be moved to the end of the meeting. Robert will mail out draft By-Law changes to support this position and to accomplish the changes described in paragraph 5 above.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Jake Yancey -would like to do a cattle ranch tour if the committee is interested. Willing to set up a meeting at one of his properties for Tracking Y Ranch

Erik Johnson – Are you ever going to get to TDR guidance for the county? Richard responded yes; we are. Also posted on the survey.

**GREEN SHEETS:** None provided for review.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. New Committee Members: We do have opening for Farmers and non-Farmers.
2. WSU update: - None
3. TCD update: The County just approved transfer of rights. The conservation district and capital land trust preserved 80 acres of land and are working on working flood abatement and restoration of the area to restore the habitat. Approached by the City of Olympia for

farmland preservation efforts with an analysis of existing and potential farmland. Governor's budget for farming projects remained the same as past years.

4. New sharing:

- a) Joe discussed delay in getting information for the Erickson Bill
- b) Public Comment (Eric Johnson) – In the Skookumchuck valley, there is a 280 acre farm being transformed into residential housing. Family cannot afford to continue farming. Expect there maybe 200 + homes developed in the area.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. (Robert/Jed)

Next meeting: January 21, 2021.

DRAFT