

**Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee**  
**January 21, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**

**ATTENDEES:**

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

**Ex Officio Present:** Stephen Bramwell (WSU); Sarah Moorehead (TCD Staff. Exec. dir)

**Guest Speakers:** Jennifer Davis (Thurston County Planning Manager) & Michael Ambrogi (TRPC),

**Guests Present:** Loretta Seppanen, Jake Yancey, Linda Powell, Helen Wheatley, Marilyn Sitaker, Carolina Mejia (Thurston County Commissioner), TJ Johnson (Thurston CD, chair), Charlene Andrade, Eric Johnson.

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**Called to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:01pm by Richard Mankamyer

Introductions conducted

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – motion to accept previous minutes - approved (Jed/Joe)

Approval of Current Agenda - motion to approve agenda - approved (Joe/Tom)

**Committee Items Discussed:**

1. Rick Nelson, Nelson Ranch – Memorial, information pending due to COVID-19. Active member in Tenino: Rick ran auctions, involved in the Thurston county market, had unmatched grange stewardship. He volunteered auctioneer time to support 4H and FFA in the area. A big loss for the community. Moment of silence called for Rick by Richard.
2. Jennifer Davis from Thurston County – provided a briefing on agricultural zoning and land use in Thurston County as well as updated the committee on survey implementation. Steve stated there are 211 responses to the survey to date. Richard sent the link to member to pass along to everyone they know. Jennifer is happy to talk to people about the context of the survey. Michael Ambrogi provided an overview of the Thurston County Farmland map overlay for the county.
3. Yantis Farm - Pat wants to focus on long term Ag use of the lands for the property. There are several possible outcomes for farmland preservation for the property. Are there constraints for the development of the property to save Ag? Jennifer responded the office is currently working on a proposal policy for cluster development rules.

4. WA Senate Bill 5045 – Joe stated the bill is a revision of the Bill submitted last year. Bill 5045 is still moving forward. Bill 5045 will allow state inspection for meat processing, small farmers to sell individual cuts rather than whole or quarter beef cuts and increase sales for smaller farms. Should the TCAAC request support of the Bill 5045 through the County Commissioners? Joe will work with Jed and Kevin to develop a letter from the TCAAC. Motion: “The group will write a letter in support of Senate Bill 5045 for the County Commissioners” (Joe/Jed), motion approved. Steven will research additional information.
5. By-Laws – Motion to approve the by-laws as submitted was proposed, not seconded. Robert recommended the By-Laws are reviewed and approved next month. There were some minor changes to be reviewed by the committee again before approval.
6. Green Sheet from last month – See Below
7. Application – Jake Yancey application reviewed by committee members followed by question/answer session. Motion “to approve new member application for Jake Yancey to the Thurston County Commissioners” (Joe/Robert). Motion approved. Richard will draft a letter in support of the committee approval.

**Green Sheet** - Project: #2020105814 (Large Lot Subdivision) discussion followed. No Decisions.

**Public Comment** - None

**Other Business:**

1. New Committee Members - to discuss next meeting.
2. Thurston Conservation District Update – Sarah Moorehead stated the District is supporting the Ag survey and promoting to various contact. Also discussed analysis of land and relationship connection with the Parks Department for farmland preservation. Great news for maintaining public spaces with agricultural space. The Districts Climate mitigation is out, calling for on farm regeneration to assist in reducing the impact on the climate.
3. WSU Update - Steve noted the grain sales for the food co-op, the “Sales Opportunities for Farmers, Ranchers and Fishermen” – Outreach session on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 5pm on Zoom. Email information to [info@swwafoodhub.com](mailto:info@swwafoodhub.com) for link. More information is available in the January 2021 Ag Sounder Newsletter, WSU Extension on-line. February 11, 2021 for potential buyers.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn (Joe/Robert). Meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.

Next meeting February 18, 2021