

# THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 15, 2020

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

**Members:** Richard Mankamy (Chair), Joe Hanna (Vice-Chair), Pat Labine, Robert MacIntosh, GiGi McLure, Kevin Jensen, Tom Watson, Jed Haney.

**Absent Members:**

**Ex-Officio:** Stephen Bramwell, WSU Extension

**Staff:** Nicole Ross, WSU Extension

**Guests:** Jennifer Davis, TC Community Planning Manager, Nick George, Linda Powell, Tony Wilson

### CALL TO ORDER

Approval of September minutes: APPROVED with one abstention

Approval of Agenda: APPROVED with one addition. Add as item 7. Discussion of attendance at meetings.

1. Presentation, Jennifer Davis, update on Planning Commission's Community-Driven Review of Agricultural Policies and Programs. (The Ag Advisory Committee will be the "home" of this project)

Jennifer described that the project now is in the scoping phase to identify stakeholders. The responses of the Ag Committee to the draft survey are part of the initial phase. There was much discussion of the content and direction of the survey questions which Jennifer will use to inform a 2nd draft of the survey.

There will be a mapping phase of the project with Thurston Regional Planning Staff to overlay the American Farmland Trust's county maps of Nationally Significant Agricultural Land onto Thurston County maps.

The next Ag Committee meeting will go over the AFT check list and spreadsheet that evaluates county efforts to preserve farmland.

Video recording of presentation: <https://youtu.be/9jfo6yB80-o>

Project web page: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning/Pages/comp-plan-agriculture.aspx>

2. Tenino Ag Park update: Kevin reported that water and sewer lines are going in. Next is construction of the new building whose function is still unclear.

3. Hemp Production update: Jed gave a summary of new WA regulations, some of which are problematic. Licensing fees have increased to \$1,200/yr. If a hemp batch tests above 0.3% THC, it is regulated as marijuana. In WA no CBD is allowed in food products. Kevin observed that another

hurdle is the lack of processing infrastructure.

4. CARES Act opportunities: Stephen brought attention to COVID-19 Ag Business Recovery Grants. He circulated information about the grants to the Committee in his email of 10/13. The information is also available on the web site <https://www.thurstonstrong.org/>. Stephen encouraged collaboration among enterprises in their application for these funds. The Committee had previously sent a letter encouraging the County to participate in the program.

5. FFA or similar organization as an addition to the Committee: There was general agreement that this would be a good idea. How to bring this about was unclear. Further investigation is needed.

6. Research into ways to help farmers. Would PSE be interested in discussing this? Gigi agreed to look into this.

7. Member attendance at meetings: Deferred to off-line discussion

Meeting adjourned at 9:08

Submitted by Pat Labine