

Meeting Notes from the April 26 Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee:

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Pat Labine at 7:02 PM

In attendance were: Eric Hagan Jill Hamilton; Eric Johnson, Pat Labine, John Lentz, Robert McIntosh, David Nygard, Chery Sullivan

Cliff Moore staffed the meeting.

Update on Committee Items:

1. In addition to Zena Edwards and Lucas Patzek, those indicating they will attend the May 3 Ag Summit are: Robert McIntosh and Eric Hagan. It is not clear if Fred Colvin will attend. Follow up is needed to determine who is developing and delivering the Thurston County presentation for the summit. Eric Hagan indicated he is interested in travelling with the WSU van. Departure time needs to be identified. Robert McIntosh indicated he is likely to drive himself.
2. There is no information yet on stormwater rate issue
3. Eric Hagan and Eric Johnson gave a detailed report on the Conservation Futures committee work – visiting and ranking projects for possible Conservation Futures funding. The committee had a robust discussing reviewing projects, pros and cons of each, process for ranking and timeline for next Conservation Futures meeting (May 14). A variety of opinions were expressed with consensus one a recommendation that at least one of the farm projects under consideration should be funded.
4. The committee had a discussion on the issues related to the collapse of bee colonies locally and beyond. A variety of perspectives and viewpoints were shared. Cliff Moore noted that WSU Extension statewide bee specialist Tim Lawrence, had indicated he was willing to meet with the Ag Advisory Committee via the university's video conference system on June 28. After discussion, staff was directed to follow up with Dr. Lawrence to confirm that meeting. Cliff Moore called Tim Lawrence on April 27 and left a voice message requesting that Dr. Lawrence confirm his availability on June 28. As of the writing of these notes, Dr. Lawrence had not returned the call. In addition, a question about Dr. Lawrence's funding was raised. Cliff Moore has placed a call to the WSU Extension Director of Natural Resource Programming to follow up on this question. As of the writing of these notes, that call has not been returned.
5. The committee had a short discussion regarding the recent Farm Bureau letter to the Board of County Commissioners. It was determined that the Committee did not need to take any follow up action.
6. The June 2 Agritourism Workshop was discussed.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Labine at 8:36 PM