

**THURSTON COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**McLane Building Conference Room  
5033 Harrison Avenue  
Olympia, WA 98502**

**OCTOBER 25, 2012**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pat Labine  
Doug Wiseman  
John Lentz  
Robert McIntosh

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** E.J. Zita, Erik Hagen

**STAFF:**

Lucas Patzek, WSU Thurston County Extension  
Dave Nygard, Thurston Conservation District  
Polly Stoker, Community Services, Resource Stewardship

**GUESTS:**

Hollie Smith, TC EMD  
Scott McCormick, TC Land Use  
Scott Clark, TC Planning

**CALL TO ORDER** – Co-Chair Pat Labine at 7:08 pm

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – minutes approval was deferred as there not enough committee members were present to vote.

**REVIEW AGENDA** – added Hollie Smith, topic Animal Response Coalition Event

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS** –

**Poultry Regulations** - Scott McCormick from the TC Land Use Department presented on poultry regulations for the county urban growth areas (UGAs), which are not consistent with the more progressive regulations adopted by some local municipalities. A particular concern is the Olympia UGA, which currently does not allow backyard poultry. Lucas also shared an Extension infosheet he created for Lacey/Olympia/Tumwater poultry regulations. It was determined that the Lacey codes were the best guidelines to follow, and Scott will use those as an example for drafting new Thurston UGA poultry regulations. Scott will send a draft out to the next committee meeting with the revised recommendations for the County.

**TDR/PDR** - Scott Clark, County Planning Director, presented on Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), including examples from across the nation and the history of the Thurston County program (handout attached). The TDR program needs to be seriously overhauled to make it

successful. The TDR program is market-driven, and is not achieving the desired effect of preserving agricultural lands due to a nonexistent demand for higher density development locally, while the PDR is characterized by private/public relationships.

Scott also discussed why the King County PDR program has been successful in preserving 94,697 acres of farmland, and it comes down to multiple bond measures and a Conservation Futures tax raising \$192.6 million for the program, while the Thurston County PDR program has preserved 2,660.74 acres with \$1 million in Conservation Futures money. This translates to Thurston County acquiring development rights for \$375.84/acre while King County pays \$2033.86/acre, so Thurston County can protect 5.4 times as much farmland per dollar using PDR compared with King County. In the future, the TC Planning Department would like to do a study to determine the appropriate transfer ratio to make this successful in our county but it will not be a high priority for next year due to the current workload concerning Critical Areas Ordinance and other projects.

**County Animal Response Coalition** - Hollie Smith, intern at TC Emergency Mgmt, is working on a project to create a County Animal Response Coalition. The county currently does not have an emergency animal (pets and livestock) plan, so she is helping to develop one and wants to establish partnerships with the agricultural community, WSU Extension, local non-profits, animal rescue groups, etc. She is planning to attend future committee meetings and requests that the committee consider connecting her with community stakeholders.

**DIRECTOR REPORT:** n/a

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

**ADJOURN** - Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm by co-chair Pat Labine

*Polly Stoker, Recording Secretary*