

**THURSTON COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pat Labine, Chair
Chery Sullivan
John Lentz
Eric Johnson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Robert McIntosh, Eric Hagan

STAFF: Polly Stoker, WSU Thurston County Extension
Dave Nygard, Thurston Conservation District

GUESTS: Mark Emrich, President, Olympia Beekeepers Association
Hollie Smith, Emergency Services Animal & Agriculture Response Coalition

CALL TO ORDER – 7:06pm, Chair Pat Labine

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – Minutes from January will be emailed for approval due to low attendance

REVIEW AGENDA – add Hollie Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS –

Honey Bee Update, Mark Emrich. A meeting with the Board of County Commissioners was held on January 9, 2013 to review the scientific understanding of neonicotinoids, and the request from the Olympia Beekeepers Association to restrict the use of neonicotinoids by the general public. John O'Brien presented on honeybee decline, and Mark Emrich, Catherine Daniels (WSU Extension Pesticide Coordinator and Director Washington State Pest Management Resource Service), Lucas Patzek, Pat Labine, and Dave Nygard were present to answer additional questions. Another meeting was scheduled for March 6, 2013 to further discuss the advisability of the county requesting that the WSDA require that home horticultural use of neonicotinoid-containing insecticides be restricted to those individuals or entities which possess a valid pesticide applicator license, and to discuss alternative solutions, including: (a) Forming a consortium of Washington counties concerned with the potential connection between honeybee colony collapse and neonicotinoid insecticides to write a letter expressing this concern to Governor and/or the Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture; (b) Building awareness about misuse of insecticides on honeybee populations through educational events and other outreach. Restricted use designation would not impact farmers, who are already mandated to hold a valid pesticide applicator license to use insecticides. There is also a House Bill going through from Department of Agriculture to try and regulate neonicotinoids use for Washington State.

Animal & Agriculture Response Coalition, Hollie Smith. Hollie extended the invitation to the AG Committee to become a part of the Thurston County Animal Response Coalition. The meetings are held once a month on the 4th Tuesday at 5:30pm at the Thurston County Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) located at 9521 Tilley Rd SW in Olympia. You can contact Hollie at 360-867-2823 or via email at f14has@gmail.com. The Department of Agriculture is looking at this new coalition as a model for the state if they can get this up and running. A letter has been mailed to local farms and she is trying to add to her database if more resources are discovered. Please spread the word about this new sub-group of the Emergency Management Department.

The question was asked about open positions on this committee and also if a roster could be emailed with current members' contact information. Polly will find out and email the group.

DIRECTOR REPORT: n/a

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Poultry Regulations: next steps for the committee.

ADJOURN – 8:20pm, Chair Pat Labine