

**THURSTON COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**AUGUST 22, 2013**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chery Sullivan  
E.J. Zita  
Robert McIntosh  
Eric Johnson  
Dave Nygard

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Pat Labine

**STAFF:** Lucas Patzek, WSU Thurston County Extension  
Polly Stoker, WSU Thurston County Extension

**GUESTS:** Scott McCormick, Thurston County Planning

**CALL TO ORDER** – 7:07pm, E.J. Zita, Vice-Chair

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – Minutes from April & July will be emailed for approval since there is not a quorum at this meeting.

**REVIEW AGENDA** –added UGA Conflicts & Operating Traditions

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS** –

**DIRECTOR REPORT:** n/a

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Agri-tourism Overlay District update- Scott McCormick**

The County Planning Commission has been reviewing the agri-tourism ordinance and revising the Agri-tourism Overlay District (AOD). Scott passed out a map of the proposed changes to the AOD for review and questions. The revised AOD shows a 15-20% increase in area, with all areas zoned as long-term agriculture (except for those lying in the McAllister Geologically Sensitive Area) being included in the AOD. The following questions were raised by the Committee, and the answers from either Scott or other members of the Committee are included (in *italics*):

- Do areas 6 and 7 include the Black River Blues blueberry farm? *Yes.*
- Is area 1 zoned as long-term agriculture? *Yes*
- Between areas 3 and 4 is a chunk of land that is left out of the AOD, why is it left out?

- Why not bring the northern border of the AOD all the way up to the UGAs? *Maybe the neighbors don't want to be included.*
- The McAllister Geologically Sensitive Area contains many commercial farms, including several important agri-tourism destinations (Spooner Berry Farms and Hunter Family Farm). Why is it not included within the AOD? *Development and other activities in the McAllister Geologically Sensitive Area are limited because of the unusual ground water characteristics of this Sensitive Area. Therefore, farms in this Area may be included in the AOD eventually, but the regulations around the types of agri-tourism activities allowed in this Area may differ from all other parts of the County.*
- How do you request a change in zoning, particularly to become zoned at long-term forest or long-term agriculture? *A request may be submitted to County anytime for consideration. A County-wide rezoning process cycles every 7 years, and this is also a good time to bring up your request for rezoning.*

### **UGA Conflicts – E.J. Zita & Lucas Patzek**

Because the BoCC needs to have any regulatory reforms in the UGAs related to agriculture added to the development code docket very soon, it is important that the Committee act quickly in offering their recommendation on agricultural regulations in Thurston County UGAs, particularly those relating to poultry and livestock. Zita has offered to draft a letter to the BoCC on this subject and email it out to the Committee for feedback.

### **Committee Membership Reappointments – Lucas Patzek**

Several Committee-members must request reappoint from the BoCC, as their terms have either expired, or are soon expiring. These members are: Erik Hagen, Eric Johnson, Patricia Labine (expired), John Lentz, John O'Brien, and E.J. Zita (expired). These members must write a short email to the BoCC, and Lucas will provide a template letter which can be used. Also, it was discussed that Erik Hagan's position could be changed to a non-farmer status, thereby freeing up an additional farmer member vacancy.

There are two vacancies currently open on the Committee. Lucas would like to suggest to Danielle Westbrook that the Committee help expedite the process of filling these vacancies by reviewing and ranking the applicant pool through a ranking process that is true to the stated mission and goals of the Committee. Lucas will request that Danielle Westbrook pass along the member applications that are pending to share with the Committee.

### **Operating Traditions- Lucas Patzek**

Lucas passed around a copy of the Operating Traditions document for the Committee. To date, the official By-Laws have not been found. This Operating Traditions document will be used as a template to create By-Laws. Once Polly types up these operating traditions, it will be emailed to the Committee for update requests.

One item that needs to be enforced once the By-Laws are in place is that members need to be active in their attendance to stay on the committee, or members must request to be excused from meetings either by email or phone. The Committee has been having difficulty achieving quorum to move along its business, so attendance by members is important.

**ADJOURN – 8:45pm, E.J. Zita, Vice-Chair**