

**THURSTON COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

DECEMBER 5, 2013

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pat Labine, Chair
Chery Sullivan
Eric Johnson
E.J. Zita
Doug Wiseman
Erik Hagan
Robert McIntosh

MEMBERS EXCUSED: John Lentz, Dave Nygard

STAFF: Polly Stoker, WSU Thurston County Extension

GUESTS: Joni Jensen
Bill Wyman
Cam Thompson

CALL TO ORDER – 7:11pm, Pat Labine, Chair

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – Minutes from October were approved.

REVIEW AGENDA –

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS –The committee would like to move the meetings for 2014 to the “last” Thursday of the month instead of the 4th to avoid confusion. We also passed around a card for John Lentz who will not be attending our meetings in the near future due to a health concern. He hopes to rejoin us in 2014.

DIRECTOR REPORT: n/a

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Invite Ecology to discuss the Water Rights topic. Invite a county representative who could speak on the ICLEI membership and what it means for Thurston County.

Q&A with AG Applicants

We asked both Bill Wyman and Cam Thompson to attend this meeting for an informal Q&A and to let them see what an AG meeting would be like if they were on the committee. They both explained to the committee why they were interested in joining this group and then told a little about themselves. Bill is currently the chairman and C.E.O. of the Yelm Co-Op. Cam is a teacher at Pierce College.

Discussion of Agenda 21 – Guest Joni Jensen

Joni is a third generation cattle farmer from Yelm who is concerned about the Sustainable Thurston County mission that will be voted on in the morning at the county courthouse. She said it is very difficult to attend the meetings the planning commission has scheduled on this topic due to the meeting time (during the day) and also feels that the meetings often change at the last minute (being cancelled, moving the date, etc.). She also feels that when the meetings are scheduled for a vote, like tomorrow's, they are not posted anywhere on the county website so that the general public will know about it in advance. Her reference book for this topic is *Behind the Green Mask of Agenda 21* by Rose Koire. She said that the county is a member of the ICLEI group whose guiding principles are based on Agenda 21 from the U.N. She said that their vision includes (1) no private cars by 2050; and (2) all of the populations of the world to live in densely populated areas on mass transit lines. She said their vision also includes no private property, including farmers, which is what is concerning her the most. She feels like farmers are being targeted with questioning the tax structure currently in use and also the inability to farm their land due to issues like the pocket gopher. Yes, the county's direction of saving farmland sounds good on the surface but she asks that everyone delve in deep on the ICLEI movement which the county is a member of.

ADJOURN – 9:00pm, Pat Labine, Chair