

**THURSTON COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**MARCH 27, 2014**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

E.J. Zita  
Doug Wiseman  
Robert McIntosh  
Eric Johnson  
Chery Sullivan  
Erik Hagan  
Bill Wyman  
Dave Nygard

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Pat Labine, John Lentz

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

**GUESTS:** Scott Clark, Director Resource Stewardship  
Kevin Jensen, potential farmer member interested in joining the committee

**CALL TO ORDER** – 7:10pm, E.J. Zita, Co-Chair

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – The minutes from February were approved.

**REVIEW AGENDA** – add Building Permits to review.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS** –

Welcome to Bill Wyman our newest non-farmer member of the AG Committee. Also welcome Kevin Jensen, who has recently applied to be a farmer member for the AG Committee.

**DIRECTOR REPORT:** n/a

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** NRCS Easement program information, CF resources available to educate ranking committee members, and TC Environmental Health regarding water/sewer regulations and how this affects AG farmers trying to start businesses in the county.

**2014 CONSERVATIONS FUTURES PROCESS CLARIFICATION- SCOTT CLARK**

The current process of the ranking committee has been in existence for 4-5 years. Parks was in charge of choosing the bids for the money prior to that. The ranking committee was created so that there would be transparency in

the process but the BoCC still has the final say about who is approved for funding. In 2013 the BoCC established a guideline of a cooling off period of 2 years between a person applying for funding who had just previously been a member of the ranking committee. AG/Prairie Habitat is the focus for 2014 as the County will need to acquire more land to be in compliance for the Endangered Species Act being enacted this year. JBLM also contributed \$3.75 million to Thurston County to secure lands easements and habitat recovery, in conjunction with the USDA and Department of Defense. Action items for next time is getting the Strategic Plan/Regulations document, etc. to Robert who will then do a PDF resource guide for potential ranking committee members to be trained and to see how using the ranking committee process has impacted the county in a positive way of saving farmlands. Ask that Andy Deffobis (now taking over the program for Scott) attend the next meeting as a follow up to this one with the requested documents and also to discuss the impacts of saving farmlands that has resulted from this program. Also invite Jeff Swotek from the USDA to go over the NRCS easement program.

#### **TRPC ACTION ITEMS FOR AG COMMITTEE – E.J. ZITA**

Zita did a presentation based on the action items from the TRPC plan targeting the ones that the AG Committee should be involved with based on the mission of this group. The PDF of this is included with these meeting minutes for future reference. If there are objections to these action items or any part of this document created by the TRPC now is the time to speak out. When the waiting period is over the BoCC will adopt the proposed plan as a whole document, not sections, so speak out now if there are issues with any part of this.

**BUILDING PERMITS** were reviewed and there were concerns with two: Fresh Productions, Inc. and Green Brothers Farms applications were incomplete due to not identifying their water plan usage as well as how they will manage run-off or waste-stream. Lucas will draft an email to send to County addressing these concerns.

**ADJOURN** – 9:07pm, E.J. Zita, Co-Chair