

**THURSTON COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**AUGUST 28, 2014**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pat Labine, Co-Chair  
Doug Wiseman  
Eric Johnson  
Bill Wyman  
Kevin Jensen  
Chery Sullivan  
Dave Nygard

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** John Lentz, Robert McIntosh, Erik Hagan, E.J. Zita

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

**GUESTS:** Sierra Smith, CNLM

**CALL TO ORDER** – 7:10pm, Pat Labine, Co-Chair

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – The minutes from May were passed out those who requested it (but not officially approved yet.) Lucas found out we cannot approve meeting minutes via email as previously thought. There was a meeting in June but there were no meeting minutes taken.

**REVIEW AGENDA**

**THE PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:** We bid farewell to Lucas Patzek as he ends his position at WSU Extension, as of September 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be his last meeting.

**DIRECTOR REPORT:** n/a

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** For the September meeting, the marijuana topic will be discussed. The guest speakers will include Scott McCormick from the Permitting/Planning department, Dawn Peebles from the Environmental Health department, and an industry specialist who is growing marijuana (to be determined which Scott is bringing).

## **AG COMMITTEE MEETING FUTURE**

The committee is concerned with Lucas leaving there will not be a staff person who will have their ear to the ground of the issues happening with AG at the County level which is a valid concern. The WSU interim director will have a “big picture” responsibility to this committee but will not have the AG background that Lucas does. This vacancy will not be filled for six months to one year. In the past, the planning department staffed this committee (an actual entry level planner) so they had an understanding of the issues with AG and the County. Pat has asked that Lucas request this type of person be the staff for this committee again with the loss of Lucas.

Polly will still be assisting with logistics (sending out agenda, staffing the meetings, first draft of meeting minutes) but the co-chairs will be creating the agenda and requesting the topics that are important and relevant to the committee.

For the immediate future, some topics to concentrate on are included in the “2009 Strategic Plan for Thurston County” which was reviewed tonight are: 1) PDR/TDR 2) assistance with ordinances such as the UGA/Chicken situation letter of recommendation that was submitted in 2014, 3) filling the “working lands advocate” position which Lucas has been doing in the past 2 years, 4) economic sustainability, just to name a few. (Lucas also thought inviting Josh Cummings, the county sustainability specialist to a future meeting would be a great idea.)

Another topic of concern is to clarify what is the role of the AG committee in regards to the green sheets that are sent out for approval from the planning. Lucas found out the ones that are delivered for our review are actually the first drafts of the applications so many of these are rejected for being incomplete or inaccurate. The question remains, why doesn’t the committee get a second glance at these once they are on to the next round of drafts? Also, how do we know when and if the “problem” applications are approved? (Hopefully Scott McCormick could address these questions next month.)

The committee feels that the work that they have tried to accomplish is not being implemented by the county (i.e. chicken ordinance recommendation from 2013). Maybe in the future try dealing directly to the County decision makers (director level) versus the staff level which don’t really have the power to change policy, or to dedicate time to a certain project without approval of upper management.

Also a need is to have more processing plants for all AG divisions. (Per Eric, a milk processing plant) According to Lucas this is the type of opportunity the Port of Olympia (Sue Dunn) is looking for so contacting her would be a great future goal for the committee.

**ADJOURN** – 8:30pm, Pat Labine, Co-Chair