

# THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

McLane Building Kitchen  
5033 Harrison Ave NW, Olympia, WA 98502

## Minutes for October 29, 2015

Members Present: Robert McIntosh (Vice-Chair), Chery Sullivan, Chris Groen,  
Mary DiMatteo, Kevin Jensen, Doug Wiseman,  
Richard Mankamyler, Eric Johnson

Ex Officio Member: Dave Nygard

Staff Present: Charisa Waters and Samantha Woolstrum

Members Excused: EJ Zita (Chair), Pat Labine

~~, and Mary DiMatteo~~

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The meeting was called to order at 7:15~~8~~ by ~~Robert McIntosh~~ Robert McIntosh followed by round-table introductions of the members, and staff.

News Sharing - Robert McIntosh passed out an article about consumers craving antibiotic free meet. Followed by a discussion of what "organic meat" means. Eric Johnson said to have a true antibiotic herd you can't use any antibiotics at all, if the animal receives even one does that the animal will need to be removed from the facility, and be put out of the organic herd and be placed into a conventional herd. A transitional organic herd starts out life as a conventional heard where they can receive antibiotics if they need it. In order to sell the milk of a transitional cow as organic the cow must go through a withdrawal period where the cow cannot have any antibiotics during the withdrawal period. After a withdrawal period the milk can be sold as antibiotic free but the meat cannot be sold as organic. When this cow has a baby, as long as the baby doesn't receive any antibiotics in its lifetime it will be considered organic.

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Mary DiMatteo is involved with the Cultivating Success Services program in Mason County for WSU and asked if any committee members would care to participate. The Cultivating Services program is a business planning program for farmers and natural resource based businesses. The program was developed by WSU and the University of Idaho. The curriculum is designed to walk farmers through a template to create a business plan that they can take to the bank and request funding. Mason County Hospital are hosting meetings every Tuesday from 6 to 9pm, through December 8, 2015. This program is backed by Dr. Justin Smith. Mary has conducted outreach in Thurston County and would like to start a program in Thurston County as well as Mason County.

Mary DiMatteo also discussed the Washington State Tilth Convention that is scheduled for the 2nd weekend in November and will be held in Spokane. She is planning on attending and will be reporting back to the committee on the Washington Tilth Producers.

Mary DiMatteo raised the topic of the Bountiful Byway committee and how they are having a difficult time recruiting committee members. Mary stated they are attempting to get an agricultural tourist committee together in Thurston County. The question about whether or not a person could be on two committees was discussed and the general consensus was that they could not. Mary stated that she believes the agricultural committee should at least have a liaison on the Bountiful Byway committee. Robert McIntosh requested to have staff enquire if an agricultural committee member would be allowed to sit on the Bountiful Byway committee. Mary recommended and agreed to ask if a Bountiful Byway committee member would be willing to attend an agricultural meeting and give a presentation on how stops on the trip are selected and how the two committees could cooperate.

Discussion of "farmer" member criteria – Carissa Waters sent out an email to E.J. Zita and Robert McIntosh stating that she has received an application from a person who is interested in filling the one empty farmer member seat. Carissa is asking if an ex-farmer who is currently working as an agricultural consultant could be consider a farmer member for the purpose of filling the one empty farmer member's seat on this committee.

Mary DiMatteo motioned that if a person is farming they will be considered as being eligible to hold a farmers seat on the committee, if a person is not farming they will not be considered as being eligible to hold a farmers seat on the committee. If a farmer's status in production changes midway through their appointment they will be grandfathered in to remain as a farmer until their current term ends. Robert McIntosh moved to approve, Eric Johnson seconded, motion carried.

Green, KevenKevin Jensen asked if there was a way to advertise openings on the committee on the AG Advisory Committee web page or at least have a link to where it is currently located.

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Discussion of Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) antibiotics rule – Robert McIntosh stated that there has been a lot of previous discussion about this subject and asked if there was anything more to add this month? Richard Mankamyer asked if the committee should do something with the information they have already learned. Chery Sullivan stated she would like to receive general information and a place where she could direct people for more information. Robert questioned if the committee has not heard from people who are actually raising animals that receive antibiotics, to understand if they think that what is being proposed is workable? Eric Johnson doesn't agree with the rule due to the veterinarian staff for large animals not being able to meet the demand and the high cost of animal antibiotics. ~~Green, Keven~~Kevin Jensen believes farmers who already have an existing relationship with a veterinarian and have already developed some of their vaccine protocols will not have an issue with it. The farmers who don't have vets out to their farms or just have not developed a vaccine protocol will have issues. Chery Sullivan stated that she believes only one VFD for the farm is needed and not one for each animal. Richard once again asked the questions as to what should the committee do with all of the information that was presented to them at the last meeting. Robert McIntosh stated that if the committee doesn't like the information and they believe it is unworkable, then it is the committee's responsibility to inform the Board of County Commissioners. If the committee believes that it is manageable, then they don't have to act on the information because the commissioners are not seeking their advice.

Richard stated that the concisions will be that the committee has researched this topic and concludes that it is not something that the County Commissioners should support

Robert McIntosh agrees with Richard Mankamyer that some sort of action needs to be communicated about the fact that the committee doesn't support legislation like the cities of Olympia and Seattle have passed.

Committee members located the draft of their Food and Water Watch letter. Chris Groen volunteered to draft a letter for consideration in time for the December meeting.

Approval of previous meeting minutes -The minutes from the September 24, 2015 meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved by consensus with amendments.

Approval of agenda – The agenda was discussed, changes were suggested, and it was approved as amended.

Discussion of the Green Sheets Presents - There were three projects presented before the committee and by mutual discussion there was no comment to be passed back to the Planning Department for the projects.

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Other business – Richard Mankamyer asked what the agricultural committee could do to promote farming. After a discussion about industrial hemp it was decided that he will locate a resource for the industrial hemp business and invite them to a future meeting.

Public Comment – There were no additional public comments on the meeting.

Motion to adjourn - occurred at 8:45pm with a reminder that there would not be a November meeting and that the December meeting will be held as scheduled on December 10<sup>th</sup> in the McLane Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted by *Samantha Woolstrum*