

THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

McLane Building Conference Room
5033 Harrison Ave NW, Olympia, WA 98502

Minutes for December 10, 2015

Members Present: EJ Zita (Chair), Robert McIntosh (Vice-Chair), Chery Sullivan,
Mary DiMatteo, Pat Labine, Kevin Jensen, Chris Groen,
Richard Mankamyer, Doug Wiseman and ~~EJ Zita (Chair), Doug~~
~~Wiseman~~, Eric Johnson ~~Eric Johnson~~,

Ex Officio Member: Dave Nygard

Staff Present: Charissa Waters and Samantha Woolstrum

Guest Speaker: Joy Beckerman, speaking on Industrial Hemp

The meeting was called to order at 7:05~~8~~ by ~~Robert McIntosh~~ EJ Zita followed by round-table introductions of the members, staff and the public attending the evening's meeting.

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

News sharing - was saved until later as well as the approval of last month's minutes because of the guest speakers.

Presentation Overview - Joy Beckerman has over 20 years of experience in the industrial hemp industry and nearly a quarter of a century in the industrial hemp movement on both U.S. Coasts. She is also the Founding President of the WA State Chapter of the Hemp Industries Association and a member of the Washington Cannabis Commission. She has extensive knowledge of and contacts in the cannabis industry.

Joy stated that hemp can't be legally grow here in Washington state, there is no law and the infrastructure needs to be set up for it, but once it comes, it will be huge. In 2014, Joy and fellow HIA member, Aimee Warner of Cannabis Basics, funded 148 educational packets, one for each member of the state legislature, and included a tremendous amount of information, samples, their comments on the various industrial hemp bills, as well as a

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documentary on hemp called *Bringing it Home*. They also provided each state legislature with an Industrial Hemp Policy Making Reference Material binder.

Members of the public asked various questions which Joy answered.

Joy's presentation was videotaped.

Approval of previous meeting minutes - The minutes from the November 19th meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved by consensus with amendments.

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

Discussion of the Green Sheets Presents - There was one new project presented before the committee and by mutual discussion there was no comment to be passed back to the Planning Department for this project.

News Sharing - Committee members decided to postpone the discussion of the impacts of climate change on farming until the January meeting.

Committee members also agreed to hear Mary DiMatteo's Washington State Tilth Convention report in the January meeting.

Committee members reviewed Chris Groen's draft letter on antibiotics usage and requested some corrections be made. Chris Groen will make the suggested corrections and e-mail the letter to the other committee members for additional review, when approved staff will provide EJ Zita with a final copy. EJ Zita will sign the letter electronically and forward it on the board of county commissioners.

Mary DiMatteo announced the Cascade Grain conference will be held on January 9th, and also a farm internship info session will be held on January 19th at the Labor & Industries building in Olympia.

Robert McIntosh asked if the committee had ever received an answer to their question, "if a committee member from the Thurston County Agriculture committee could sit on the Bountiful Byway committee".

Answer: Yes, only Thurston County Board of Commissioners can't sit on the committee. If anyone would like to apply they can get an application here

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/bocc/boards-list.htm> or contact, Rebecca Pilcher, 360-786-5747, pilcher@co.thurston.wa.us

Other business – No additional business was discussed.

Motion to adjourn - occurred at 9:17pm.

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Respectfully submitted by *Samantha Woolstrum*