

Richard Mankamyer 10/26/17

I came to the Ag Committee over 2 years ago and am now in my 2nd appointed Two-year term. In those 2 years we have not accomplish very much.

We all live here and it is my sincere desire that we work together as an Agricultural Committee for the betterment of agriculture in our county.

This is a talented and diverse group who have come together to see what we can do to help agriculture. Your input and participation is welcome and you have a voice here. Let us stay in communication, work together as a great team.

I am a farmer and passionate about agriculture in Thurston County, and I want good healthy clean water to drink, food to eat and air to breathe for myself and my family and I'm sure you do also.

As you may know the county commissioners were going to disband this group. Many of us including committee members and staff practically begged them to not disband the group. We are being watched.

I think it's time we show the commissioners that we can function as a viable agriculture advisory committee, get involved in some projects, reports or research that has substance to it that we can present to them in ongoing reports and minimize the infighting and maximize our output.

Please be aware that our current County commissioners are not farmers and we have to assume to have a limited knowledge of agriculture. In my personal talks with the commissioners individually, they are vitally interested in agriculture and look to us as a resource. They want a trusted voice for agriculture.

As an example, Commissioner Edwards asked Robert and I 3 questions that he wanted answers for and is been at least 6 months and we have no report for him at this time. Of the 3 questions he asked I would like to see us come to some conclusions tonight on at least one of those questions, so that we can send over a Preliminary report showing that we are engaged, active and in moving forward.

Some meeting guidelines:

1. be courteous don't talk over each other
2. If necessary, we will have to raise our hands and be called on in order. In some of the more active committee I am on, this works very well.
3. As a note to the staff, We are volunteers, appointed to the committee by the Board of County Commissioners. You get paid we don't. Let us all work together for the purpose of this committee was created for.

We may all want to ask ourselves why are we here and can we cooperate to make this a viable committee.