

THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

McLane Building Conference Room

5033 Harrison Ave. NW, Olympia, WA 98502

Minutes for October 26, 2017

Members Present: Richard Mankamyer (Chair), Bryan Fisher, Chris Groen, Kevin Jensen, Robert McIntosh (Vice-Chair), Eric Johnson, Mary DiMatteo, Robin Buckingham

Staff Present: Stephen Bramwell and Deborah Bordelon (WSU Ext.)

Members Excused: Pat Labine

Guests: Josh Cummings, Interim Director Resource Stewardship; Joe Hanna, E. County Farmer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Richard Mankamyer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance then round-table introductions of the members, staff and guests attending the evening's meeting.

Josh Cummings introduced himself and explained his role within Resources Stewardship as Interim Director. Josh reiterated the importance of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the need for the committee. It was clarified that Charissa Waters and Deb Bordelon are Resource Stewardship employees and staff to the committee; Charissa as a representative of the VSP and Deb as the Secretary. Josh allowed committee members to ask questions of him. Richard commented that he would like to have a better understanding of what Resource Stewardship is comprised of and how the committee might be able to address specific areas as opportunities to help.

Josh also advised the Committee that Eric Johnson's membership was renewed retroactively to September 1, 2017. There will be votes on future board members at the next Board meeting. If there is confusion on Bylaws and who can interject and/or provide alternates and proxies, it is up to the committee to clarify, and vote on, and change.

Richard, as the new Chair of the committee, gave an introduction as to his role, responsibility, and passion for this committee and where and how he would like to see the Committee work together and move forward. (copy attached)

Approval of Minutes – After a lengthy discussion regarding minutes, Robert put forth a motion to have the September 28 minutes revised into an action reporting style and to set the

precedent for future minutes to be action reporting style and the recording made public. Vote was passed, 5 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstention.

Eric put forth a motion to table approval of the September 28 minutes until the next meeting. Vote was passed; All in favor. Minutes will be edited and reviewed at the next meeting.

Approval of agenda - agenda was approved with the addition of discussion as to when to have the combined Nov/Dec meeting.

Discussion of last election – There were questions regarding the election that took place last month and that it was not in accordance with the Bylaws. Please see: Article III Officers, Election of Officers of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, Thurston County By-Laws)

Mary requested that the record show that she is not in favor of the current election as it is against the Committees' By-Laws or that it is outside of the procedure of the existing By-Laws.

Eric put forth a motion that the election stand as it was recorded from the last meeting. The motion was seconded and vote was put before the committee: Vote count not known, motion was passed.

Mary then put forth a motion to follow the Bylaws, that Robert should be Chair and that the election take place in January as prescribed in the Bylaws. There was no second, the Motion failed.

Vice Chair: No further comments

Public Comment: No public comment

Date for Nov/Dec combined meeting: Nov. 30 or Dec. 7 at the Fairgrounds

Ag Exempt Structures: Information on how other counties determine their Ag exempt structures was distributed to members for review. Information was derived from the International Building Code. The original question from the Commissioner was asking for input from the committee about which farm structures and activities should be exempt from County permitting processes.

After lengthy discussion regarding the current county restrictions, policies and requirements for agriculture permitting processes and comparing information regarding what other counties do, Robert put forth a motion for the committee to submit to the Commissioners the information that was researched showing neighboring county requirements along with a draft of their proposed recommendation that TC increase its current requirement to a maximum 3000 sq. ft. single story building. Motion was passed, all in favor.

WSU Update – South Sound Food Summit was October 21-22. There was a good turnout.

Barley Trial: Almost all of the barley has been cleaned. It is being cleaned with a new seed cleaner that WSU acquired. The hope is that in the future it can be made available to the community for use. The cleaned barley will be going to Sandstone Distillery to be used for making whisky. Samples of the whisky will then go to WSU's Wine Science Center in Richland to be analyzed for flavor.

Stephen is also working on a grant to provide the county with data on the capacity to protect species on working prairie ground for a Western SARE Grant.

The Extension Office will be moving to the Beneoschek Building at the Fairgrounds on December 18 and 19.

Green Sheets – None

Additional input on Resource Stewardship Comprehensive Plan – The committee will have more time for research than input and suggestions.

New Location for Ag Committee Meeting – Extension Office new location??

New sharing – Maya Buhler, AP for TCRS invited a representative from the committee to attend their next stakeholder meeting for input and discussion on potential options to designate mineral lands.

Cascadia Grain Conference – SPCSS January 19-20, 2018. Field trips on Friday, sessions on Saturday. There will be another trip to the Scattercreek Farm for grain equipment association.

Adjournment – 9:07