

THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thurston County Fairgrounds

3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia, WA 98503

Minutes for December 7, 2017

Members Present: Richard Mankamyer (Chair), Bryan Fisher, Chris Groen, Kevin Jensen, Robert McIntosh (Vice-Chair), Mary DiMatteo, Robin Buckingham, Joe Hanna, Scott Von

Staff Present: Stephen Bramwell, Deborah Bordelon, Charissa Waters

Members Excused: Pat Labine, Eric Johnson

.....
The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Richard Mankamyer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance then round-table introductions of the members and staff attending the evening's meeting.

Approval of Minutes – minutes for September 28 were approved. Minutes for October 26 were approved with one edit.

Approval of agenda - agenda was approved with the addition of Resource Stewardship Update.

New Farmer Member – Joe Hanna was introduced by the Chair. Mr. Hanna gave a brief introduction of himself and his interests.

Application for Non-Farmer member position-Michael Moore, his application was reviewed by committee. After reviewing the application the committee decided to draft a letter to the Commissioners with their recommendation and gratitude for having the opportunity to review the application.

Resource Stewardship Update – Stephen shared the ideas that the new Director of Resource Stewardship has to help facilitate a more direct relationship between the committee and the County. These recommendations also include suggestions for the committee to adopt that would empower this advisory committee as a citizen board to internalize its policies and procedures. The committee will consider adding a couple of new positions to the elections process for January 2018. This will include a committee member as Secretary, someone to focus on the By-laws, and for the Extension Director to become the liaison between the committee and the County.

Robert put forth a motion to include the nomination and vote for these new positions at the January meeting and then review/update the By-Laws to reflect these and other recommended changes. The motion was seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Committee members will also look in to visiting other boards and commissions to observe how they work, learn more of what they do, consider how or if they might be familiar in purpose to compliment the Ag Advisory Committee. Some boards being considered: Agritourism, Storm Water Advisory Board, Fair Board, Current Use, Noxious Weeds, Planning Commission, and Pest Management.

January 2018 Elections – Nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Compliance (By-Laws) will be presented and voted upon.

Resource Stewardship Comprehensive Plan – This is a good goal for the committee for 2018. Input is needed and welcomed. Robert will obtain a copy of the RSCP and begin reviewing the material in the Ag section for edits and suggestions.

Public Comment: No public comment

Green Sheets – None

WSU Update – Extension office moving to new office space at TC Fairgrounds on December 18-19. Information is being collected to be used in the impact report for 2017 of all extension offices. Stephen will present the impact report to the Commissioners in February. Memorandum of Agreement for the extension office for 2018 will be presented to the Commissioners in February as well.

Cascadia Grains Conference January 19-20, 2017. Equipment at Scatter Creek Farm on Friday, classroom sessions on Saturday at South Puget Sound Community College.

There are currently two grants outstanding, one for food processing facility, and one for the prairie grazing study. Decision on the food processing facility should be known by December 14 and the prairie grazing study will be sometime in April.

2018 county fair in August will be a great opportunity for the committee members to get involved and have a presence at the Fair. There is a need for more educational programming related to agriculture which lends itself to a need for an exit survey at the fair.

Centralia College is considering adding an agriculture degree to its programming. Initially, a two year degree and eventually a four year degree. The trustees are currently soliciting feedback regarding interests, needs, future, and diversity of advantages to an agriculture degree, from local students, businesses and leaders.

New sharing – From the Conservation District: on Dec. 20, there will be the second to last meeting of the, “Coffee with your Conservation District”.

Native Plant sale orders are open for anyone looking for plants.

Kathy Whelan, Executive Director of the Conservation District, recently retired.

Conservation District is entering 2018 without a state budget and without their Assessment renewal.

Adjournment – 8:52

Submitted by - Deborah Bordelon