

THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7:00 – 9:00 pm  
Benoschek Building  
3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia, WA 98503

**Minutes for February 22, 2018**

**Members Present:** Robin Buckingham, Mike Moore, Chris Groen, Robert McIntosh, Joe Hanna, Richard Mankamyer (Chair), Eric Johnson, Scott Vaughn.

**Staff Present:** Deborah Bordelon, Thurston County, Stephen Bramwell, WSU Extension

**Members Excused:** Mary DiMatteo (Vice-Chair), Pat Labine, Kevin Jensen, Brian Fisher

**Guests:** Josh Cummings Community Planning and Economic Development Director. Alison Osterberg Senior Planner from Thurston County. Nicole Warren, Thurston Conservation District. Mike Burnham Senior Planner with the Thurston Regional Planning Council, and Tye Messner.

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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.

**Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Minutes for the January 25, 2018 meeting were approved. Unanimous.

**Approval of current agenda:** Agenda approved. Unanimous. Request of regular addition of Thurston Conservation District to "Other Business" on agenda template.

**COMMITTEE ITEMS**

**Mike Burnham:** Senior Planner with the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), presentation on new Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan which was adopted in early 2018. This plan recommends 91 adaptation actions to prepare for Thurston County for climate change. In late 2015, TRPC received a grant to develop a watershed-based plan with adaptation actions that the Thurston County region's public- and private-sector stakeholders could take to reduce, prepare for, and cope with projected climate change impacts in the decades ahead. The state Department of Commerce administered the grant funding over the project period, which concluded in early 2018.

The planning area encompassed three watersheds that overlay northern and eastern Thurston County and drain into Puget Sound (See Map); these watersheds — defined by the Washington Department of Ecology as Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) — include Nisqually (WRIA 11), Deschutes (WRIA 13), and Kennedy/Goldsborough (WRIA 14). Many of the plan's 91 actions may be applied effectively throughout the broader Puget Sound region and other areas with similar geographies and climate risks. For more information on the Thurston County Climate Adaptation Plan please visit: <http://www.trpc.org/737/Project-Documents>.

**Allison Osterberg:** Senior Planner from Thurston County, Long Range Planning, who is working on the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) which is the guiding document for land use in

Thurston County. Regular updates to the plan are necessary to account for a growing and changing county. Ag Committee would be most interested in the Comp Plan chapter on Natural Resources. Osterberg announced public meeting schedule. Sub-area plans are also being updated in rural areas of the county. Mineral lands map will be changing but will not affect agricultural lands. Questions were raised on: co-designation of natural resource land; cultivation of marijuana in residential areas; rural cluster development; long term planning for county development in direct relationship to water quality, senior water right holders & overall availability; state mandated county well-fee \$500 (ag exempt for irrigation, but not for stock water - clarification) recently adopted by Board of County Commissioners. Comments for the Comp Plan may be sent individually by committee members to Ms. Osterberg. There will be a draft release in April which will be open for comments. The committee decided to comment on this draft as a group. Discussion was to take place via email with the entire committee. For more information on the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan please visit: <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/comp-plan/comp-plan-document.htm>.

**Review of By-Laws:** Agenda item was tabled until March meeting due to length of meeting.

**Public Comment:** No.

**Green Sheets:** No.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**WSU Update:** 3/10/2018 National Young Farmers Coalition on Food Safety Modernization Act Event. Ag Business Park receives funding from Port of Olympia, along with local processing facility in Thurston. MOA signed between County and WSU Extension, presented impact report of 2017 ag program accomplishments and financial arrangement overview with the County. Year two of barley trials moving forward, expresses need for 6 acres to conduct the trial.

**TCD Updates:** Robin reports funding from VSP and Shellfish Protection Districts; WA Conversation Commission; Elections on March 3 & Native Plant Sale. Noxious Weed Board has position open. Robin has taken a new position with Pierce Conservation District, Nicole Warren will occupy the TCD seat on committee.

**STAFF UPDATE:** Deb's Role on the Committee: Deb is still the staff for the Committee but will no longer be doing the meeting minutes. Meeting minutes will be absorbed by a revolving group of committee member volunteers called scribes. Scribe job description will be reflected in the 2018 bylaws updates.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:15

**Scribe:** Mary DiMatteo, Non-Farmer Member, Vice-Chair.