

THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Benoschek Building

3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia, WA 98503

Meeting Minutes for June 28, 2018

Members present: Richard Mankamyer (Chair), Mary DiMatteo (Vice-Chair), Joe Hanna, Pat Labine, Robert McIntosh, Chris Groen (Scribe)

Absent: Bryan Fisher, Mike Moore, Scott Von, Eric Johnson, Kevin Jensen, Deborah Bordelon (Thurston County Staff), Nicole Warren (Thurston Conservation District), Stephen Bramwell (WSU Extension)

Guests: Joshua Cummings (Thurston County Community Planning and Economic Development Director), Fred Colvin (Public – Colvin Ranch, Tenino)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and then roundtable introductions of the members and staff attending this evening's meeting.

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Approved unanimously as presented.

Approval of current agenda: Approved unanimously after changes made to order of business.

COMMITTEE ITEMS:

(1) Public Comment. Fred Colvin, representing Colvin Ranch in the Tenino area, spoke to the committee about his concern with increases in recent land value assessments and inquired about whether the committee could engage with the county assessor's office about the process and results.

(2) Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Presentation. Joshua Cummings, CPED Director, reiterated the importance of the committee's work and discussed some ideas of what the committee could present to the BOCC at the upcoming meeting on August 22. Discussion ensued between Cummings and the committee on possible topics and methods of presentation.

Cummings also presented updates on the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), the Fair, and employment opportunities available at the county.

The committee had questions for Cummings about Purchases/Transfers of Development Rights (PDR/TDR), permitting, and options for landowners who are looking to develop property.

The committee then discussed what to present to the BOCC and Robert will draft an outline and present it either through e-mail or at the committee's next meeting.

(3) Green Sheet(s): None

OTHER BUSINESS

(1) WSU Update: Stephen absent.

(2) Thurston Conservation District Update: Nicole absent, but Richard shared information about the Partners in Conservation Conference.

(3) News Sharing: Richard shared an article and letter about current challenges for young farmers, including access to health insurance, an increase in mental health issues, access to land, and issues with financial instability.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.