

Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee

7:00-9:00 PM

3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Olympia, WA 98503

Minutes for February 27, 2019

Members Present: Mike Moore, Joe Hanna, Richard Mankamyer (chair,) Pat Labine, Robert McIntosh, Kevin Jensen, Gigi McClure, and Bryan Fisher.

Ex Officio Present: Stephen Bramwell, WSU Extension

Members Excused: Scott Von, Nicole Warren (Thurston Conservation District,) Eric Johnson

Guest Speaker: Cesar Sanchez with the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

No members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Richard Mankamyer.

Pledge of allegiance, optional for all attendees of the meeting.

A round table of introductions followed including members, staff, and guests.

Richard asked Stephen for Port of Chehalis grain terminal update.

Approval of previous meeting minutes (January 31, 2019): Minutes were approved unanimous.

Approval of current agenda with amendments: Agenda was approved unanimous.

Committee Items

Department of L & I Guest Speaker presentation on the Farm Intern Project

Cesar Sanchez is the Farm Internship Project Coordinator for L & I and presented the background on the Farm Intern Project. The project is a pilot project that was started in 2014. There are 20 counties in Washington State that are opted into the project, including Thurston County. The project is a way for farmers to pass on knowledge to interns that are looking into agriculture for a career path. The project has 3 requirements of farms:

- Earn less than \$250,000 net income
- Located in 1 of the 20 eligible counties
- 1 on 1 approved plan with the interns

The farm is required to pay a workers comp fee for the interns, but it is a reduced rate. The farmer is not required to pay the intern a wage, however most provide some sort of stipend (living space, side of beef, weekly wage, etc.) The farm must provide an IRS sales form to prove they are under the net \$250k earnings and an application to Mr. Sanchez along with the educational curriculum that is intended for

the intern(s) to follow. The ATTRA website is the page that interns can post their resumes to that farmers can access and review. There are roughly 30-40 interns across the state per year.

Stephanie Henderson is the person in charge of the workers compensation for interns and would be the best person to contact about rates.

Peggy Bill (SP?) from San Juan Islands is the person who started the Farm Internship Program, and San Juan County is a very popular area for the internship project.

Kevin and the committee all agreed that the advertisement for the Farm Internship Program was lacking and thought that it would be a wonderful resource for farmers and folks looking to become an intern if they knew about it. Mr. Sanchez stated that as of right now the program is only funded through December 31, 2019, (end of this year.) The hope is that the current 2018-2019 legislative session will extend the program further, or make it permanent. The committee requested representative names to contact and encourage the continued funding for the Farm Internship Program.

Elect Vice Chair

Richard brought up that a Vice Chair would need to be elected this committee meeting. Two nominations were made: Richard nominated Joe and Robert nominated Kevin. The committee cast their vote on secret ballot, Joe won with 5 votes to Kevin's 2 votes. Joe Hanna is the official Vice Chair.

Robert brought up that the Washington State Department of Commerce provided a free 3 hour training on land use planning, open public meetings, public meetings and reported that the training was great.

Comp plan

Robert drafted comments for the comp plan revision, and the committee reviewed Roberts's comments. Robert added next to the word Agriculture, "...and forest lands." According to Robert the Comp plan defines Agriculture separate from Forest lands, therefore the committee feels forest lands should be included.

The following drafted comments were mostly grammar and style suggested changes. Comment #14 discusses PDR and TDR, the committee had discussion about this and added further suggested language. During this time Pat brought up the land trust drafted comments to overlay on the committees comments.

Stephen brought up the issue with the comp plan not providing total mineral land acreage, general mineral lands discussion ensued.

WSU Update

Stephen stated that a spring grazing summit will be held at the Colvin Ranch in Tenino, hosted by Fred Colvin on April 27, 2019. There will also be a value added processing presentation put on by the Washington State Department of Agriculture on May 25, 2019.

Balance of agenda items

A motion was moved and seconded to table balance of agenda items until March meeting.

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the committee meeting at 9:03pm.

Scribe

Kevin Jensen, Farmer Member

Scribes for the year of 2019

(Kevin – January and February,) (Robert – March and April,) (Stephen – May,) (Joe – June,) (Gigi – July and September,) (Pat – October and December,) (Joe – January 2020.)