

**Thurston County Agriculture Advisory Committee**

7:00-9:00 PM

3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Olympia, WA 9803

**Meeting Minutes for May 30, 2019**

**Members Present:** Richard Mankamyer (Chair); Joe Hanna (Vice Chair); Eric Johnson; Gigi McClure; Robert McIntosh; Pat Labine; Kevin Jensen; **Members Excused:** Bryan Fisher; Mike Moore.

**Members Absent:** Scott Von

**Ex Officio Present:** Stephen Bramwell (WSU)

**Guests Present:** None

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**Called to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Richard Mankamyer.

Pledge of allegiance was rendered.

A round the table introduction was conducted for attending members.

Approval of the Minutes for April 25th, 2019 meeting. Minutes approved unanimously.

Approval of May 30, 2019 agenda. Agenda was approved unanimously.

**Committee Items Discussed:**

- a. Comprehensive Plan. Items for addition already discussed at previous meeting. Actions: Richard will make edits as identified by committee. Richard will send final version to committee, and email the final recommendations to Joshua Cummons, CPED Director.
- b. Vote on removal of Scott Von. Actions: unanimous approval to recommend removal to County Commissioners, and that a new member be appointed.
- c. Is hemp farming viable in Thurston County? Actions: none; Committee to keep listening for building interest, specifically among farmers, to determine if the industry could be considered or supported in some way.
- d. Biosolids on farm and forestland. Actions: none; Ag committee is not in jurisdiction/purview as application goes to Ecology, and the allowance for applying biosolids is made at Ecology. Though the topic is of considerable public interest, discussion warranted.
- e. Human composting. Actions: none; opinions were generally in support.

- f. Tenino Ag Park. Actions: Stephen to invite Dan and Aslan to June meeting. Aslan Meade with Thurston EDC and Dan Penrose with SCJ Alliance to talk about Master Planning. Discussion occurred regarding a private slaughter facility. Access to slaughter and cut/wrap is a big issue; need USDA for slaughter and cut and wrap to sell by part.
- g. New committee members. Actions: Stephen to post membership availability in WSU Agriculture Newsletter. Committee indicated advertisement should go to County webpage, facebook, other, not to a farmer-targeted audience
- h. Other business.
  - a. Committee has questions about county inaction on farmland preservation. Where are green sheets?
  - b. Committee indicated needed support on accessing and reviewing greensheets: enable committee see how much farmland is converted to other uses, and allowing committee to formulate a plan to stop it, and provide alternatives to farmer owners looking to convert farmland.
- i. Conservation Futures. A review of conservation futures properties was provided by Ag Committee representative Joe Hanna. Five properties, none farmland.
  - a. Committee reviewed properties under consideration for Conservation Futures funding. The committee noted that the absence of farm properties was discouraging.
  - b. Recommendation: More farm contacts need to be made between sponsoring agencies and farmers. Landowners may not be aware of opportunity to partner with a sponsoring entity.
  - c. A motion was made by Robert to: express to the county the Ag Committees frustration at the lack of farmland in conservation futures projects, and tell the county that the committee put the topic on the agenda for July. The motion was amended by Pat Labine to: reserve one-third of the funding for next year since there are no farmland projects this year. Eric Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
  - d. Final action: Joe will work on writing and provide to committee by next meeting to edit.
- j. There was no public comment provided
- k. There were no “Green Sheets” provided for review.

**Other Business:**

- a. WSU update: July 16<sup>th</sup> Prairie Grazing Field Day at Riverbend Ranch from 5pm to 8:30pm. Dinner will be available. A WSU Cultivating Success farm planning class begins June 11<sup>th</sup>. The Tumwater Brewfest will be August 17<sup>th</sup> and feature beer brewed from malted barley that was grown in Adna, WA. Some four breweries will serve, and there will be an opportunity to taste all four test malting barley varieties (as beer) brewed by Top Rung Brewery in one of the tents. An updated was provided on the NABC efforts to bring a Food Hub into Southwest Washington.
- b. TCD update: No update.
- c. New sharing:
  - 1) Lawyer Nursery, 120 acres purchased by Van Lierop.
  - 2) Energy companies approaching farmers for solar installation. Another pressure on farmland.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.