

THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 27, 2019

7:00 – 9:00 pm

3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia, WA 98503

Minutes

(Heritage Hall)

ATTENDANCE

Richard Mankamyer/Chair, Joe Hanna/Vice-Chair/scribe, Michael Moore, Bryan Fisher, Eric Johnson, Sarah Moorehead; Visitors: TJ Johnson, Jim Goche, Tony Wilson.

CALL TO ORDER: quorum obtained at approximately 7:15pm

Pledge of Allegiance – optional (personal preference)

Introductions/Attendance

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Tabled

Approval of current agenda

Approved

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Tenino Alpaca Farm Update

-nominal discussion as guest speaker was not in attendance

Do we still need local farms?

-discussion presented by Jim Goche. Main topic was related to conservation easements and the potential of easements not being held in perpetuity, but for specific time limits which could help farmers be able to continue farming by lowering tax burdens and when ready to retire have option to take out of easement. TJ and Goche also addressed **NO NET LOSS OF FARM GROUND** being part of the comp plans for County and all Cities within the County. Despite this being in all of the comp plans, they are buying and converting farm ground to other things, such as parks and ball fields. (Spooner Farm etc.)

Where does Agriculture fit in all this?

-Incorporated into above.

Land Trust – Are they helping farmers?

-tabled

Ag Interests with the WRIA – does TCD represent Ag Interest?

-topic was addressed by Moorehead.

Farm Tour - 16th at River Bend Ranch

-reminder to all and invitation to all

Discuss lack of farmland in conservation futures project via the County.

-Hanna addressed that another meeting has been called related to Conservation Futures. Results of third meeting to be addressed at July meeting. Issue becomes if applicants can provide future mitigation value to the County or if it is just providing grants, what is priority of Commissioners?

Public Comment

-Wilson and Jim Goche provided comment.

Green Sheet

-none provided

OTHER BUSINESS

WSU Update

-none

Thurston Conservation District Update

-Moorehead provided long update. No follow with information provided.

News Sharing

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50