

## THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes for July 25, 2019

**Members Present:** Richard Mankamyer (Chair); Joe Hanna (Vice Chair); Pat Labine; Gigi McClure; Robert McIntosh (Scribe).

**Members Excused:** Kevin Jensen; Eric Johnson.

**Members Absent:** Bryan Fisher, Mike Moore.

**Ex-Officio Present:** Stephen Bramwell.

**Guest Present:** Paul Mikoloski.

**Preliminary Actions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introduction of attendees. The May and June minutes were approved with minor changes. The July agenda was approved.

### Items Discussed

**Ag. Business Park Update.** As an alternative to the Alpaca Farm site, Tenino is now proposing it be located on Tenino-owned property. The Legislature has appropriated \$1.5 million to get the project started. Stephen will try to arrange a speaker on this subject for our September meeting.

**Forest Land as Agricultural Land.** Discussion on this topic. The county Comp. Plan addresses forest land separately from Ag. land. Robert suggested that this is reasonable, but that, where appropriate, forest land should be made eligible for programs designed to preserve working lands.

**No Net Loss of Farmland.** The Committee decided to explore three sources of data on county farmland loss: (1) Community Farmland Trust; (2) WSDA data from aerial surveys; and (3) the county's VSP program (Charissa Waters). Once we have the data we will work on developing an annual position paper detailing the loss of farmland and suggesting measures to prevent such loss in the future (Conservation Futures, PDR, TDR, conservation easements, etc.). Robert volunteered to work on this effort.

**New Ag. Committee Members.** Stephen will put a notice of vacancies in his August newsletter. Each current member will try to recruit one or more new members. Gigi confirmed that she is a non-farmer member.

**Conservation Futures Update.** Joe reported that the Conservation Futures Committee's first choice recommendation was to find an additional \$70,000 and fully fund both the Home Farm property and the Mancke property. This Committee's briefing to the BOCC is now set for August 14 at 1:30 p.m.

**Jensen Family Ranch Tour.** This was a real success, with about 60 attendees, excellent food, and excellent discussions on using habitat enhancement on working lands for endangered species conservation. Doing this is especially important given the recent rejection by USFW of our county's endangered species plan. The next program in this series will be September 16 at Violet Prairies Seed Farm. Ag. Committee member Bryan Fisher is the farm host.

**Ag. Committee Administrative Assistant.** Brief discussion of this topic.

**WSU Update.** Stephen reported that at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 26 at Centralia Community College there will be a meeting to discuss development of a Regional Strategic Plan for agricultural viability. 26 jurisdictions have signed on to participate. Stephen would like at least one member of our Committee to attend.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.