

THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 12, 2019

7:00 - 9:00 pm

3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Olympia WA. 98503

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Board, Richard Mankamyer/Chair, Joe Hanna/Vice-Chair, Eric Johnson, Pat Labine. Absent: Robert McIntosh(out of the country), Mike Moore (excused), Gigi McClure (medical leave), Brian Fisher.

Ex-Officio: Stephen Bramwell WSU, TCD not present.

Guests: Bill Moomau, Linda Powell, Micah Sherman

CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance (optional, personal preference)

Introductions, attendance

Previous meeting minutes: APPROVED

Current agenda: APPROVED

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Food Hub: Stephan reported that a Federal Grant was submitted in September to extend Puget Sound Food Hub into Thurston County. The grant request has been funded and a steering committee is being formed.

2020 Ag Committee Goals: It was suggested that a USDA slaughter facility should be one of the top concerns, as would be keeping the BOCC engaged in farmland preservation.

Agritourism and Open Space: One of our guests expressed concern that marijuana growing was not classified as agriculture and therefore was not eligible for Ag open space taxation or agritourism listing. In addition it was noted that Commissioner Edwards has requested that the Committee consider amendments to both the Agritourism and Open Space regulations. These would require in depth discussions and will be continued.

How can the Committee become a more effective voice for Ag in TC? Some members expressed frustration and discouragement. There was a suggestion that we take a look at what Ag Advisory Committees are having success with in neighboring counties.

Should the Ag Committee become an official Sentinel Landscape Partner and endorse the SLP charter? Questions about whether the Committee has the mandate to take such action were immediately raised. Discussion postponed until next meeting when hopefully Robert, as our Bylaws interpreter, will be present.

Process for "Green Sheets" consultations: Stephen passed out examples. It was clear that the committee would need more information on the green sheets if we were to make more informed opinions about the need to consider farmland preservation for a particular project.

Attendance: A committee member expressed concern that TCD hasn't been attending meetings.

New Committee Members: It was noted that there are still some openings. The Committee could use representation from the nursery industry, vegetable or poultry production, and the Olympia Farmers Market.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:00pm