

THURSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 30, 2020

7:00 - 9:00 pm

3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Olympia WA. 98503

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Board, Richard Mankamyer/Chair, Joe Hanna/Vice-Chair, Pat Labine, Robert McIntosh, Kevin Jensen, Gigi McClure (medical leave). Absent: Brian Fisher.

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

Guests: Eric Johnson, Linda Powell.

CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance (optional, personal preference)

Introductions, attendance

Previous meeting minutes: APPROVED

Current agenda: APPROVED

COMMITTEE ITEMS

2020 Ag Committee Goals: Pat brought to the Committee's attention a recent publication from Whatcom County examining loss of farmland.

(https://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/44710/Final_Rural-Land-Study-Report-2019-Update). The subsequent discussion showed considerable interest by the committee in duplicating a similar study for Thurston Cnty. Stephen said he would talk with Jennifer Davis in Community Planning to see if they would be interested in such a study and if it would be within the scope of the new Company Plan. Robert, with the APPROVAL of the Committee, will work with Stephen to draft a letter to BOCC 1) in support of an in depth review of the Ag section of the Comp Plan, 2) to give serious consideration to expanding the acreage of designated Ag lands, and 3) to conduct a study similar to Whatcom County's on trends in farmland conversion.

Change of meeting dates to 3rd Thursday of every month: APPROVED, with the exception of this coming February which will be the 4th Thursday.

Letter to BoCC regarding appointments to the Committee: There was concern among the Committee that appointments and removals from the Committee by the BoCC were being made without consultation with the Committee. APPROVED: Robert and Richard will draft a cover letter expressing these concerns and attach to it Michael Moore's letter of resignation over the recent BoCC rejection of reappointment for a long time committee member. Stephan is working with the County administration on a process to ensure that new applications come to the Committee first before BoCC appointment.

Scribes for 2020 meetings: Feb - Robert

Mar - Brian

Sept - Brian

Oct - Joe

Apr - Robert
May - Kevin
June - Kevin
July - Joe

Nov/Dec - Pat
Jan '21 - Pat

Preference for Green Sheet information: Stephen continues to work on this. The Committee would prefer to see Green Sheets on conversions to development of 5 acres or more of potential agricultural land.

Internal Committee processes: The addition of a new Extension staff person (Nicole Ross) will ensure that Committee minutes and agendas will be brought up to date on the county website.

Public comment: There was an expression of support for Eric Johnson.

OTHER BUSINESS

WSU update: Stephen provided an update on the recent grain conference, and distributed copies of enterprise budgets for cow/calf operations put together by a recent workshop of local producers. There was a brief discussion. Stephen requested that the committee look over the numbers and give him feedback.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:10pm

Submitted by Pat Labine