

## Minutes

### King County Agriculture Commission Minutes from May 10, 2007 Issaquah Fish Hatchery Issaquah

**Commissioners Present:** Nancy Hutto, Michael Blakely, George Irwin, Bob Tidball, Bob Vos, Larry Pickering, Judy Taylor, Ewing Stringfellow, Grant Davidson, Ward Roney

**Commissioners Absent:** Lu Eng, Rob Holland, Roger Calhoon, Julie Haakenson

**Agency Staff:** Mark Isaacson, Director, Water and Land Division (WLRD), Department of Natural Resources (DNRP); Bill Eckel, Kathy Creahan, Judy Herring, Steve Evans, Karen Kinney, Steve Bleifuhs, Claire Dyckman, WLRD; Annmarie Magnochi, King Conservation District (KCD); Karen Wolf, Office the Executive, King County; Jeff McMorris, Liaison Councilmember Kathy Lambert's Office

**Guests:** King County Council Member, Kathy Lambert; Steve Hammond, Citizen Alliance for Property Rights (CAPR), Anne Mack, Protect Agriculture Now (PLAN), Marguerite Sutherland (PLAN), Erick Haakenson, farmer, Ian MacCrae, farmer, approximately 20 members from CAPR – to be listed.

Nancy Hutto called the meeting to order.

Introductions were conducted and the meeting proceeded directly to business items:

#### **Decisions Made:**

Larry Pickering moved and George Irwin seconded that the County proceed with the sale of the Nelson-Bauer property. Motion passed.

#### **Recommendations:**

The July Agriculture Meeting scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Enumclaw Fair be rescheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup> at Carnation Farm in response to the Executive's request to consider mechanisms to support the proposed Camp Korey.

The Commission postpone final recommendations on the proposed Farmland Preservation Program (FPP covenants) until a future meeting in order that Commissioners fully consider the comments made at this meeting both by commissioners and the public regarding mechanisms to encourage or require farming of sites; and the issue of limiting house size. The preponderance of comments recommended placing no limits on house size of FPP parcels.

The Commission support the legislation proposed to the King County Council by Kathy Lambert regarding executive actions that will address the viability of agriculture in the face of increased flooding in the Snoqualmie Valley, specifically the allowance of effective farm pads; repair of damaged buildings, and the reduction of floods in the future by stormwater management or other alternatives. Commissioner Pickering noted that buildings on farm pads were not included.

**Request:**

County representative(s) return to the July meeting of the Agriculture Commission to report on the status of improving or expanding farm flood pads.

**Public Meeting Regarding FPP Covenants:**

The preponderance of commenters expressed concern that the Ag Commission or County would recommend regulating house size in the new proposal for a change in the FPP covenants. They suggested this was a step on the way to regulating house size for other houses zoned agriculture, using the Comprehensive Plan. A few noted that the median size proposed was too small, but that an upper limit might be considered.

**Presentation by Mark Isaacson on Flood Issues:**

The WLRD Director noted the steps that have been taken since the November floods to in the future: improving the warning system, addressing the accuracy of the gages, providing recovery support to the Hmong, assessing the status of the farm flood pads. He noted that about 2/3 of the “critter pads” expanded in the 1990’s needed either minor or major alterations to provide coverage in a 100 year flood. He described the steps the county was taking to address this issue, including working with FEMA and DDES. He acknowledged that this issue is a challenge that will require some creative solutions.

Discussion ensued. Erick Haakenson asked if the county had entertained strategies to significantly reduce flood levels in the future. Mr. Isaacson responded that he would be interested in pursuing this topic. Ian McCrae noted the urgency of providing critter pads, including allowing buildings or cover on top of them.

**Camp Korey:**

Nancy Hutto and others reported on their attendance at the press conference announcing the future of Carnation Farms, now the Nestle Training Center, as the site for Camp Korey. Karen Wolf of the Executive’s Office will be working with the regulatory subcommittee and bring discussion to the full Commission at its July meeting.

**Councilmember Kathy Lambert on the Viability of Agriculture in the Snoqualmie:**

Councilmember Lambert presented pictures and anecdotes on the November floods’ effects on agriculture in November of 2006. She then reviewed proposed legislation that asks the Executive to report to Council in August of this year on steps that are needed to mitigate future flood damage. She asked the Commission if they had any additional items to add. They requested that she add the threshold of 50% of the valuation of a building that is impediment to replacing buildings damaged by floods.

**Staff Reports:**

The three subcommittee meeting dates and purposes were noted.

The meeting was adjourned.