

**King County Agriculture Commission
Minutes from November 8, 2007
Mercer View Community Center
Mercer Island WA**

Commissioners Present: Nancy Hutto, Michael Blakely, George Irwin, Bob Tidball, Bob Vos, Grant Davidson, Ben Kodama, Judy Taylor

Commissioners Absent: Larry Pickering, Julie Haakenson, Ewing Stringfellow

Agency Staff: Bill Eckel, Kathy Creahan, Steve Evans, Judy Herring, Claire Dyckman, King County (KC) Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) Agriculture Programs

Guest Agency Staff: Josh Monaghan - King Conservation District, Todd Murray -WSU King County Extension, Chad Kruger - WSU Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources, George Jaquish, Farm Services Agency

Guests: Mara Heiman, citizen

The Meeting was called to order by Nancy Hutto, Chair.

Commission Roundabout; George: selling steers this weekend; Cattlemen's going on over in Prosser, and Farm Bureau will be going on next week in Spokane. Big issues include definition for KAFFA's; Judy Taylor store going, selling well; Michael, getting ready for winter, farm pad is up; Nancy Hutto lost about three hives to visiting bears; had her best summer ever – tourists from the cruise ships bought her honey; Roger had a long summer, got a nice write up in the NRCS website, is trying to analyze what happened this summer in terms of customers and crops; Bob Vos's cow farm is ready for winter; Ward Roney, they just purchased farm a in Texas from someone who supplies them in winter and they supply him in summer; Grant is glad the busy market season is over and he can travel.

Decisions Made:

- Staff will call a meeting regarding flooding in the Lower Green River APD. Mara Heiman would like to be included.

Decided to delay any action on the request from Mr. Hang regarding the chipping and shredding facility on his neighbor's property until the Commission has a chance to hear from the neighbor. Presentation on Climate Change and Agriculture by Chad Kruger from the Small Farm Sustainable Agriculture Program at Washington State University. He emphasized the cost of nitrogen and how that will play out in agriculture; how agriculture can reduce its emissions; and then reviewed what is happening with biofuels in the country.

There was a long question and answer session.

Public Comment:

Mara Heiman commented that the flooding situation in the Lower Green APD has continued to worsen and this is due, in part, to the City of Auburn directing runoff to the APD and using it as a flood storage area. Ms. Heiman also commented that property on which the wood

chipping/shredding facility (referenced above) is sited, has become so wet that only about a third of it remains farmable. She said that this greatly limits the use of the property and, as a result, the owner needed to find some other way to generate an income from it, hence the chipping/shredding facility.

Nancy Hutto adjourned the meeting.