

**King County Agriculture Commission
Minutes from October 11, 2007
City of Issaquah Police Department
Issaquah**

Commissioners Present: Nancy Hutto, Grant Davidson, Roger Calhoon, Julie Haakenson, Bob Tidball, Larry Pickering, Ewing Stringfellow, Judy Taylor, Ward Roney, Ben Kodama, Bob Vos, Michael Blakely

Commissioners Absent: George Irwin

Staff: Bill Eckel, Kathy Creahan, Karen Kinney, Steve Evans; King County (KC) Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) Agriculture Programs

Guest Agency Staff: AnnMarie Magnochi, King Conservation District; Todd Murray, Washington State University Extension; Paul Reitenbach, DDES

Guests: Anne Mack, PLAN; Mara Heiman, citizen; Steve Hammond stopped in to introduce himself as the new aide to Councilmember Reagan Dunn. His focus will be on acting as an agricultural specialist

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

Roundtable: Micheale has begun her farm flood pad; Julie left her job at Pike Place Market to work at Jubilee Farm; Bob Tidball is done for the season and is waiting for the rain; Nancy has put the bees down and to bed for winter; Bob Vos has the place buttoned up for winter, had a great garden this year; Ward says Herbco is purchasing a farm in Texas; Ewing had a good hay season.

Decisions Made:

There were no formal motions.

Recommendations:

- Related to Comprehensive Plan presentation:
 - Put the topic of the Shoreline Management Update on a meeting agenda.
 - Include biofuels in list of agricultural products in Comp Plan
 - Discuss the topic of food travel in the future (in Comp Plan?)
 - Wetland banks in Agricultural Production Districts is a hot topic – discuss.
 - Examine how Roads policies affect agricultural lands: do we need a policy related to how jurisdictions, city and state may affect agriculture by their decisions on roads? (see below)

- Related to Future Meetings
 - Would like to know what state committee is doing on Farmland Preservation.

- Related to 10 Year Vision
 - Educate our customers

- Consider the infrastructure for safety vs the infrastructure for the ease of the consumer.
- “Do no Harm” for the future should be the principal in dealing with houses/developments on farmlands.
- Address slaughter facilities – ongoing need.

Presentations:

Paul Reitenbach of DDES reported in on the review draft of the 2008 Comp Plan that was published on October 1 for comments through Dec 31. Changes to the Comp Plan include:

- The Shoreline Master Program has not been updated since 1970’s and had been added to the Comp Plan as its own chapter.
- Two new related drivers of policies including climate change food policy and planning.
- The traffic concurrency program has been changed.

In terms of agriculture:

- The Agriculture Production Districts remain the same; and the transitions around them remain protected.
- The County did not support the City of Duvall proposal to add 40 acres next to the APD.
- There is a proposal for changed zoning just west of the Sammamish APD on Willows Road where 3 parcels are zoned industrial.

Bob Vos asked about the future of rural villages. It was noted that this concept did not pass the state legislature.

Bob Tidball was concerned about storage of materials on Ag land by the County and wondered if there are policies that prohibit this. Kathy Creahan noted this is a temporary allowed use.

Ewing raised the questions that George Irwin asked last year regarding the statewide issues of the Shoreline Program and its relationship to our policies and now the Puget Sound Partnership.

Paul Reitenbach noted that Growth Management, Shorelines and Puget Sound Partnership are all related in terms of water quality. He clarified that the SMA applied to streams with flows of greater than 20 cfs.

Cascade Harvest Coalition Programs – Mary Embleton

Mary described the following Cascade Harvest Coalition programs:

- Puget Sound Fresh: the consumer survey results will be finalized soon.
 - PSF will be bringing in stakeholders to evaluate success of the program and look at new messages and marketing strategies to implement.
 - The label “Puget Sound Grown” is included in the Puget Sound Fresh logos and could be tailored to a farm.
- Annual Harvest Celebration is put on in collaboration with WSU and was very successful this year.
- PCC Natural Markets is a strong partner
- Farm Link is state-wide program begun in 2002

- 1,000 contacts; 300 enrolled in program and looking for farm opportunities
- Only 54 pieces of land enrolled in program and these are primarily lease opportunities.
- A few outright sales
- A few farmers wanting to mentor
- Have matched 18 farmers and landowners over the years, with Andrew Stout perhaps being the most notable!
- CHC sponsors over 30 workshops: a basic “farming 101”.
 - A lot of current farmers go for workshops,
 - Extension conducts a lot of workshops, include the focus on livestock.
- CHC is creating a Resource Directory
- Farm to Table Workshops: link farmers to buyers.
 - A Farmer-Chef Connection Workshop each year: school districts, military, Navy, etc.
 - A lot more sales have been generated because of the workshops.
- Community Tool Kit: will be on a CD.

Special programs to help farmers remain viable.

- California farming has used independent farm ...
 - Used in law
- Create a Individual Development savings account that is then matched. You have to take land use and financial planning workshops
 - Mercy Corps in Portland has program.
- Madison – CSA members receive a discount on their health insurance premium CHC is researching local health care providers to see if there is interest. CHC is surveying local CSAs to see if they would participate. Would start this as a pilot.
- Beginning a Puget Sound Food Project:
 - Funding from the Caroline Foundation
 - For example, a multipurpose food processing facility would be regional.
 - Will have strategic planning

Collaboration is the only way to proceed. She is on a number of boards:

- Advisory Board for Small Farm Program
- State Farmland Preservation Committee
- A board overseeing all Farm Links in the U.S.
- Snohomish County has an Ag Economic Development Team

Agency Reports:

Todd Murray reported:

- Harvest Celebration had record attendance; over 300 surveys were returned this year; they are working on a date for next year.
- The proposal for research on flea beetles was accepted.
- With support from the KCD, Hmong youth are being taught how to use video equipment, educating their parents on sustainable practices.

AnnMarie Magnochi reported:

- Classes are proceeding. Nov 8th will be on winterizing the farms.
- BMP practices start on Thursday, followed by a last class on Nov 14th by DDES on permits and rural landowners.
- The video is almost finished.
- Radio spots are complete for the series called Green Acre – KTS 1.3 FM
- Chamber of Commerce

Nancy Hutto adjourned the meeting.