

**King County Agriculture Commission
Minutes from September 13, 2007
Issaquah Fish Hatchery
Issaquah**

Commissioners Present: Nancy Hutto, Ben Kodama, Bob Vos, Larry Pickering, Grant Davidson, Judy Taylor, Michael Blakely, Ward Roney, George Irwin, Bob Vos

Commissioners Absent: Ewing Stringfellow, Roger Calhoon, Julie Haakenson, Bob Tidball

Staff: Steve Evans, Judy Herring, Karen Kinney, Claire Dyckman, King County (KC) Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) Agriculture Program.

Guest Agency Staff: Annmarie Magnochi, King Conservation District (KCD);

Nancy Hutto called the meeting to order.

Decisions Made:

- Commission Representation to Snoqualmie Flood-Farm Task Force:
Michael Blakely Alternate or Back-Up: Ward Roney

Recommendations:

- See attachment from brainstorm on ideas to consider in 10 Year Vision.

Roundabout: George Irwin has Simenthal's and Limousines in the Puyallup fair; dairy numbers are way down at the fair, Herefords are up. Nancy is selling honey at the fair: there is no fireweed honey in Washington from this summer – too wet. Bee colony collapse is diagnosed from a virus in Israel three years ago. The virus should hit here next year. Judy has opened her shop selling produce, flowers, and crafts. Michael had a crazy summer. Bob Vos has a new calf and alfalfa is in for the winter. Grant says it is hard to run five markets; will have berries late this year. Larry is getting a farm plan going.

Presentations

Karen Kinney reported on the Puget Sound Fresh program. A survey has been conducted for its 10th anniversary to identify needs and directions. Results will be brought to the Commission.

Staff Reports:

- Judy Herring is working on the new covenants and will get them off to the Regulatory Committee. The sale of South 277th is complete; Mike Carpenito is the purchaser.
- Steve Evans reported that the Growth Management Natural Resources Committee passed the ordinance that allows Camp Korey to use the 50 acres at the Nestle farm site; a public hearing is scheduled for September 24th. Elizabeth Weldin is working on approximately six Agriculture Drainage Maintenance Projects.

Focus on Farming will be held November 29th, the last Thursday in November.

Julia Larson of the Economic Development group noted that a group has been meeting with the citizens who were “naysayers” on the proposed code changes for the Rural Economic Strategy, and agreement has been reached. Councilmember Dunn will now bring the proposal to Council. She will provide copies of the new proposal to the Commission.

Agency Reports:

King Conservation District (KCD):

Annmarie Magnochi reported:

- KCD continuing work to support critter pad effort
- Winterizing farms
- Classes though Horses for Clean Water continuing
- Harvest Festival is the following week;
- Will have a booth at Issaquah Salmon Days
- Wrapping up the year’s farm plans
- Josh is going on paternity leave!

New Business:

- George Irwin asked how Growth Management, the Puget Sound Partnership (Ruckleshaus Center) will interface with Shoreline Management. Staff needs to confirm this with him. He noted that the state Cattlemen’s Association is holding up the King County Critical Areas Ordinance as the “model” for agriculture.

Nancy Hutto adjourned the meeting.