

# KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

## MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015

4:00 – 7:00 P.M. AT THE ISSAQUAH FISH HATCHERY

125 WEST SUNSET WAY, ISSAQUAH

### PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA

(AGENDA ITEM TIMES ARE TENTATIVE)

|      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| 4:00 | <b>Call to Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Approval of Agenda</li> <li>• Approval of Minutes (November) p. 5-9</li> </ul>  | George Irwin, Vice Chair  |
| 4:15 | <b>Public Comment</b>  | George Irwin, Vice Chair  |
| 4:20 | <b>Commissioner Appointments and Confirmation Update</b>   | Patrice Barrentine  |
| 4:30 | <b>Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) Acquisition Update</b><br>Actions:<br>Q&A   | Ted Sullivan, FPP Manager   |
| 5:30 | <b>Break</b>   |   |
| 5:50 | <b>Strategic Planning, Committee Formation and Meeting Schedule</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committees</li> <li>• Commissioners Join</li> <li>• Strategic Planning – Policy you want to cover next year p. 10-12</li> <li>• Meeting Schedule</li> </ul>   | Patrice Barrentine  |
| 6:30 | <b>Updates</b> (approx. 5 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory Committee</li> <li>• Watershed Improvement District</li> <li>• Tall Chief Sale</li> <li>• King Conservation District</li> <li>• KC Comprehensive Plan Public Review Draft Comments due by <b>January 6, 2016</b> at <a href="http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/executive/psb/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan/2016-KCCP-Update.aspx">http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/executive/psb/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan/2016-KCCP-Update.aspx</a></li> </ul> | Commissioners<br>Cynthia Krass<br>Bob Vos<br>KCD Staff<br>Patrice |
| 7:00 | <b>Adjourn</b>   | George Irwin, Vice Chair  |

**Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup>**

# 2015 Meeting Topics Calendar

| Complete                            | Topic  | Who   | When | Outcomes                            |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|------|-------------------------------------|--|
|                                     |  |   |      | Letter advising County Executive    | Notes  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Washington State University's North Puget Sound Campus               | Ann Goos  | Jan  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Commission advises support of WSU in the State legislative budget  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ag Commission Strategic Planning Part 1                              |   | Jan  |                                     | Topics determined for year   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Integrating New Agriculture Commissioners                            |   | Jan  |                                     | 19 applications  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Hafner Project Advisory Vote   |   | Jan  |                                     | Support Hafner Project for agriculture benefits  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Farmland Preservation Program Highlights                             |   | Jan  |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Farm Fish Flood (FFF) Integrated Caucus Plans                        | Janne Kaje                                      | Feb  |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) for the Lower Green         | John Taylor<br>Jennifer Knauer<br>Lorin Reinelt | Feb  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | And letter to Flood District Commissioners support of agriculture in SWIF land use protections and priorities; 2) submitted Agricultural Goals Statement; and 3) SWIF Policy Statement additions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Agriculture Land Use Recommendations for FFF                         | Kathy Creahan                                   | Mar  |                                     | Recommendation to FFF  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ag Commission Strategic Planning Part 2                              |   | Mar  |                                     | Committees determined  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Review Integration of Agricultural Improvements into Farm Fish Flood | Kathy Creahan                                   | Apr  |                                     | Reviewed, contributed to and analyzed information  |

|                                     |   |                               |                        |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Review Integration of Agricultural Improvements into Farm Fish Flood  | Kathy Creahan                 | May                    |                                     | Did not take action through a letter   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | KCD's New Grant Program   | Josh Monaghan                 | May                    |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | New Commissioner Reception  |                               | Sept                   |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Comp Plan Overview  | Ivan Miller                   | Sept                   |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | King County Comprehensive Plan - Ag   | Kathy Creahan                 | Sept                   |                                     | Reviewed, contributed to and analyzed information                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Requested Letter Supporting Tall Chief Sale To Exec/ Council  |                               | Sept/ Nov              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No action in Sept or Oct; Voted to send letter to County Council in November |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Farm Fish Flood Updates   |                               | Sept                   |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Code Change Proposal; Regulatory Committee; Compilation of Regulatory and Permitting Issues Affecting Agriculture | Randy Sandin<br>Kathy Creahan | Oct                    |                                     | Reviewed, contributed to, and analyzed information                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Pilot projects related to ADAP and tiles  | Brian Sleight                 | Oct                    |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Farm Fish Flood Updates   |                               | Oct                    |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | King County Farming Regulations: Study and Report   | Kate, Lauren, Meredith        | Oct                    |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Food Economy Initiative Implementation  | Mike Lufkin                   | Nov                    |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Land Lease and Accessible Farmland  | Kathy Creahan                 | Nov                    |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Farm Fish Flood <b>Major Agenda Item</b>  |                               | Nov                    |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) Acquisition Update  | Ted Sullivan                  | Nov – moved to Dec     |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Commission Policies and Procedures: Review and Modify   |                               | Dec-Mar                |                                     | Informative  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Committee Formation and Meeting Schedule  |                               | Oct– delayed until Dec |                                     |  |

# 2016 Meeting Topics Calendar

|  |   |                        |                              |  |  |
|--|---|------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
|  | What's Going on with Ag in Other Counties?  | Snohomish Skagit, Etc. | Dec - moved to Jan           |  |  |
|  | Appoint a commissioner and an Alternate for KCD Advisory Board  |                        | Sept – delayed until January |  |  |
|  | Farm Fish Flood Letter for Consideration/Policy   |                        | Feb                          |  |  |
|  | <b>Tour</b> – Purpose of Commission, FPP, ADAP, Buffers, Salmon-Recovery, Drip Irrigation, Drought, WID, Reclaimed Water, Keller Ditch, Tall Chief, Ag Regulatory Changes |                        | Oct- delayed until March     |  |  |
|  | Joint Meeting with Rural Forestry Commission  |                        | Q1 2016                      |  |  |

# King County Agriculture Commission DRAFT Minutes from Thursday, November 12, 2015 Watershed Science Center, Issaquah

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| Commissioners      | P | A | Commissioners       | P | A |
|--------------------|---|---|---------------------|---|---|
| Nancy Hutto, Chair | X |   | Bob Vos             | X |   |
| George Irwin       | X |   | Siri Erickson-Brown |   | X |
| Eldon Murray       |   | X | Larry Pickering     | X |   |

*P=Present; A=Absent*

| Staff Present     |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| John Taylor       | Michael Lufkin     |
| Kathy Creahan     | Patrice Barrentine |
| Richard Martin    | Ted Sullivan       |
| Randy Sandin      |                    |
| Guests Present    |                    |
| Roger Calhoon     | Chris Keenan       |
| Leigh Newman-Bell | Tom Quigley        |
| Meredith Molli    | Mike Hascomb       |
| Amy Holmes        | Jeffrey McMorris   |
| Joshua Monaghan   | Cynthia Krass      |
| Mike Casilla      |                    |

## Meeting Action Summary

- **September and October Meeting Minutes approved**
- **Motion to write letter to the KCC in support of the Tall Chief sale and name a commissioner to field questions from the Council until sale is complete passes unanimously.**
- **Next Meeting: December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Meeting Called to Order at 4:05 pm**

### Agenda Approved by Acclimation

Nancy Hutto asked for an update on the guidelines for new commissioners. Patrice Barrentine reported that the new commissioners would be eligible to vote at the December 10, 2015 meeting and reminded them to complete the required trainings for all new commissioners.

### Approval of Minutes

George Irwin made a motion to approve the September 2015 meeting minutes. Bob Vos seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Irwin also made a motion to approve the October 2015 meeting minutes. Larry Pickering seconded the motion. The motion carried.

*September and October meeting minutes approved unanimously.*

### **Public Comment**

Tom Quigley, President of the Sammamish Valley Alliance, spoke briefly on the increasing demand for wine tasting rooms in the Woodinville area, and that some people are trying to locate them on agricultural land even when not permitted to do so.

### **Introduction of Richard Martin, Agriculture and Forestry Incentives Program Manager – John Taylor**

John Taylor introduced Richard Martin to the Commission. Mr. Taylor advised that Kathy Creahan would be retiring later in 2016 and was staying on with DNRP until then to support Fish Farm Flood (FFF) and regulatory reform, as well as to assist in training Mr. Martin. Mr. Taylor also spoke on Mr. Martin's recruitment process and extensive background and qualifications.

### **Watershed Improvement District – Cynthia Krass, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance**

Cynthia Krass spoke about an Alliance project involving response to a community desire for a mechanism to manage irrigation water rights and drainage issues in the Watershed Improvement District (WID). WID is an irrigation district; these districts in Washington date back to 1889 and have statutory authority to address many water issues including agricultural drainage, habitat restoration, and flooding related to water storage for the purpose of irrigation. Two main project objectives, she said, were increasing landowner access to irrigation water and protecting existing water rights, as well as addressing agricultural drainage on a system-wide basis. She said the program was a non-profit organization acting as administrative program manager to assist local landowners in moving forward in this process. She added that, once fully operational, this organization would be an independent special-purpose district not tied to the Alliance.

The next step, she continued, is for the King County Council (KCC) clerk's office to count voter ballots for the landowner election on whether to form the WID. If a two-thirds' majority of voters approve, the district would be formed and certified on December 7, 2015. The ballots also include a slate of candidates for a total of five district commissioners. She explained the WID would cover roughly the same size and area of the Agricultural Production District (APD). She added that provided this measure passes, there would be funding provided by the King Conservation District (KCD), and that formation of this district would also make the area eligible for funding through the state Department of Ecology. She stated an additional hope was to form a water bank in the new district for buyers and sellers of water rights to conduct that business.

### **Farm Fish Flood - John Taylor, Cynthia Krass, Josh Monaghan**

Mr. Taylor briefly reviewed the history of FFF, which arose from a policy in the 2012 King County Comprehensive Plan that addressed a long-standing conflict between salmon recovery efforts and

agricultural uses. He explained there had been a struggle to gain support for an agreement on this matter from the agricultural community, many of whom felt there had been too little public outreach from King County. A Memorandum of Mutual Understanding (MOMU) was presented to stakeholders, which among other tasks set forth the task of King County and KCD creating an agricultural alliance to provide outreach to Snoqualmie Valley farmers. The goal of FFF, he said, is to provide landowners a better understanding of the community's perspective on related issues. Mr. Taylor explained that the MOMU included a commitment on King County's part to provide the stakeholders drafts of work scopes for several areas: a "buffers" task force (addressing the issue of farmers losing workable land when putting up buffers), a strategic plan for the APD, and a regulatory review/reform task force. Mr. Taylor also addressed a concern on the lack of a crop and soil scientist at King County. He said the KCD has worked to bring the Washington State University (WSU) extension services back with the County on a limited, short-term basis, but that the stance of KCD's Advisory Committee and Board is that the County needs to increase efforts to bring the WSU extension back with them fully.

Joshua Monaghan spoke on the farmland preservation, fish recovery, and flooding work of FFF and how integration of these three conflicting components was needed, and that his team was working on that. He stated there is a group of 12 people, including four local farmers, negotiating a compromise on these components. This group requested Mr. Monaghan's team ensure a majority of landowners/farmers are educated on this situation, and that these citizens have a clear idea of others' viewpoints in order to facilitate negotiations. He said a proposal was to, between now and February/March 2016, schedule a series of discussions with small groups of local farmers on their issues relating to FFF. Cynthia Krass further elaborated on the need for community engagement on these issues.

Mr. Vos stated that he believes there are several potential "win-win-win" solutions for FFF, one involving drainage tiles. An additional commenter affirmed the land drainage issue was a key means to engage discussion with farmers. Ms. Krass added that the subject of drainage tiles was indeed on their team's agenda for discussion.

Mr. Irwin voiced a concern on whether a group of four farmers on this negotiation panel could adequately negotiate the way the County changes the codification of the way APDs exist, and what rights/rules a farmer had in those APDs. Mr. Monaghan replied that he didn't believe this group had any wish to negotiate changes of that scope on its own. He extended an invitation for anyone wishing to attend any of these farmer consultations to contact his team to make arrangements to do so.

## **Break**

### **Local Food Initiative – Mike Lufkin**

Mike Lufkin introduced and discussed a PowerPoint presentation on the Local Food Initiative.

### **Access to Farmland – Kathy Creahan**

Kathy Creahan introduced and discussed a PowerPoint presentation regarding access to farmland.

## Tall Chief – Nancy Hutto

*See packet for materials.*

Ms. Hutto pointed out several newly-released documents regarding the Tall Chief sale. These included a petition, a letter by farmers in response to the petition, a list of frequently asked questions, and a letter from Commissioner Siri Erickson-Brown.

Ms. Hutto then called on Mr. Taylor to speak. Mr. Taylor reiterated his statements from the previous meeting that he believed the County's evaluation and scoring process of the submitted proposals for Tall Chief had been fair and thorough.

Mr. Monaghan spoke briefly to rebut a claim apparently posted on the website of the petition against the Tall Chief sale, a claim that alleged KCD was responsible for the petition. He added that KCD's board had submitted a letter to KCC in support of the Kellers' purchase of Tall Chief.

Mr. Irwin made a motion for the Commission to also submit a letter to the KCC in support of the purchase. Mr. Vos suggested an amendment that the Commission's chair also designate a commissioner to field inquiries from the KCC or County Executive going forward through the remainder of the purchase process. Mr. Vos added that Commissioner Eldon Murray had expressed a concern, that he believed county voters did not authorize the County to purchase and dispose of land, and hoped the Tall Chief situation would be educational to the County regarding its future involvement in such processes.

*Motion to write letter to the KCC in support of the Tall Chief sale and name a commissioner to field questions from the Council until sale is complete passes unanimously.*

Ms. Hutto asked Ms. Barrentine to reactivate the support letter drafted previously by the Commission and submit it back to her for her signature. Ms. Hutto also designated Mr. Vos as the commissioner to address future questions and concerns from the KCC regarding the purchase.

Meredith Molli spoke to the Commission about the petition in protest of the Tall Chief sale, and a letter she and a group of several other farmers have drafted to counter what they believe to be misleading allegations in the petition. She said the group didn't necessarily want to get involved in this; however, they did not feel comfortable leaving these allegations unaddressed. She invited anyone interested to read both the petition and her group's counter-letter, and to circulate the website which includes the counter-letter and supporting information.

Mr. Taylor advised Ms. Molli that he would inform them of the date and time of the next committee meeting and hearing on this issue. Ms. Hutto asked Jeffrey McMorris, aide to KCC Councilmember Kathy Lambert, if there was any further information available from the KCC. Mr. McMorris answered they would keep the Commission apprised of the next steps in the process, and stated that Ms. Lambert was publicly supportive of the Kellers' purchase.

Ms. Molli suggested there should be discussion in the near future about production practices for the County. Mr. Taylor answered that the Snoqualmie Valley Agriculture Strategic Plan process would possibly be the best venue for that discussion.

## Updates

Mr. Monaghan provided a report on the KCD. He spoke of nine projects that would be funded through the Regional Food Systems Grant Program, a total award of \$600,000. He continued that the KCD was purchasing two pieces of equipment that would be available to assist local farmers: a mobile poultry-processing unit and a no-till drill. He spoke briefly on several additional updates including staffing changes: Mary Embleton hired on as KCD's new Foods Program Manager, and that KCD is in the process of recruiting a new Executive Director.

Ms. Barrentine gave a brief update on the status of the Regulatory Committee. She said the Committee is still reviewing the agricultural use code proposal changes and have so far received positive feedback from the commissioners.

Mr. Taylor spoke on the status of the 2016 KC Comprehensive Plan, stating the Public Review Draft of the Plan has been posted on KC's website and there is a 60-day review period for public feedback. He continued there would be roughly a 1.5-to-two month period for the County to integrate feedback into the Plan, and then submit those revisions to the KCC in March 2016. Ms. Hutto requested that the portions of the Draft relevant to the Commission be brought to a future meeting for review.

Mr. Pickering requested to be added to the Regulatory Committee. Ms. Barrentine advised she would send him the necessary invitation for the next meeting.

## Meeting Adjourned at 7:07 pm

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## Next Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 4:00 pm

Issaquah Fish Hatchery, Watershed Science Center, Issaquah

# AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

**Enabling Legislation:** .K.C.C. 2.36.050; Ordinance 11417, July 12, 1994

**Staff Liaison:** Patrice Barrentine, DNRP; Phone: 206-477-1556; Mailstop: KSC-NR-0600; Email: [Patrice.Barrentine@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Patrice.Barrentine@kingcounty.gov)

**Purpose/Mandate:** The Commission advises the King County Executive and King County Council on agricultural policies and programs, including, but not limited to, existing and proposed legislation and regulations affecting commercial agriculture, land use issues as they impact agriculture, implementation of the livestock ordinance, and ways to maintain, enhance and promote agriculture and agricultural products in the region.

**ESJ Update for 2015:** The Agriculture Commission is designed to represent the diversity of the agricultural economy, various agricultural operations, and the regions of the county. More than half of the commissioners must be farmers. Extensive recruitment was conducted appropriate to the agricultural sector using local and statewide agricultural list serves and personal contact to add eight new people to the commission. More than 50 individuals were directly contacted as well as reaching out through organizations such as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Pike Place Market, WA State Farmers Market Association, SnoValley Tilth, Cascade Harvest Coalition, Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance and the Washington State University Small Farms Team and Hmong Farmer Coordinator. In addition, the commission press release was picked up by several local newspapers in the county. From three months of targeted outreach, 19 applications were received and 15 interviews were conducted.

The applicant pool had the following demographic break down: three people of color, twelve women, seven men, nine rural residents, eight urban residents, ages 30-65 years old. Two people of color were interviewed, one was not suitable for appointment, and one was selected for recommendation, but declined, due to a new job. Therefore, the following were recommended: six women, two men, five farmers, one buyer, two ag support professionals, five rural residents, one urban resident, and no people of color. While we have a pool of more than 17 additional people who have expressed interest in applying in the future, we will continue to work on cultivating relationships with Asian and immigrant farmers to better match the demographic of the farmers in King County: White 90%, Asian 6.7%, Spanish/Hispanic/Latino 2.8% (USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture).

**Estimated expenditures spent on the operation of the board/commission in 2015:**

Total Expenditures for 2015: \$46,632

**Estimated staff hours spent on the operation of the board/commission in 2015:**

Total Number of Staff Hours: 664 hours

**Total Number of Members – 15**

# AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

CONTINUED

**Term Length:** 3 year terms

**Membership Info for 2015** (*Expired terms are in BOLD print. Terms expiring in 2016 are highlight in BOLD print and shaded*):

| Pos. | Name                | Council District | Profession / Represents               | Initial Appointment | Term Expires    | Number of Appointed Terms |
|------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1    | Larry Pickering     | 3                | Veterinarian                          | 10/09/06            | <b>2/28/15</b>  | 2 Full                    |
| 2    | George Irwin        | 9                | Beef Cattle Breeding Stock            | 3/14/02             | <b>2/28/15</b>  | 1 Partial / 2 Full        |
| 3    | Amy Holmes          | 8                | Fruit CSA, lamb                       | 9/18/15             | 02/28/17        | 1 Partial                 |
| 4    | Shelby Jors         | 2                | Grocery Produce Buyer                 | 9/18/15             | <b>2/28/16</b>  | 1 Partial                 |
| 5    | Nancy Hutto         | 3                | Honey                                 | 4/09/04             | <b>02/28/14</b> | 1 Partial / 2 Full        |
| 6    | Leigh Newman-Bell   | 4                | Farmers Markets, Farm Incubators      | 9/18/15             | 02/28/17        | 1 Partial                 |
| 7    | Bruce Elliott       | 5                | Beef Cattle                           | 9/18/15             | <b>02/28/16</b> | 1 Partial                 |
| 8    | Anne Becker         | 3                | Produce Co-Ops                        | 9/18/15             | 02/28/17        | 1 Partial                 |
| 9    | Leann Krainick      | 9                | Dairy Farmer, berry grower            | 9/18/15             | 2/28/18         | 1 Full                    |
| 10   | Robert Tidball      | 7                | Berries                               | 4/09/04             | <b>02/28/14</b> | 3 Full                    |
| 11   | Eldon Murray        | 7                | Beef Cattle                           | 9/30/11             | 02/28/17        | 2 Full                    |
| 12   | Siri Erickson-Brown | 2                | Vegetables                            | 9/30/11             | <b>02/28/16</b> | 1 Partial / 1 Full        |
| 13   | Meredith Molli      | 2                | Restaurant Buyer, Vegetables, Poultry | 9/18/15             | 02/28/18        | 1 Full                    |
| 14   | Robert Vos          | 7                | Beef Cattle                           | 10/09/06            | <b>02/28/13</b> | 1 Partial / 1 Full        |
| 15   | Roger Calhoon       | 3                | Agri-tourism, Value-added products    | 9/18/15             | 02/28/17        | 1 Partial                 |

## AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

## CONTINUED

### Major Achievements in 2015:

- Spent significant time this year advising on agricultural needs for the Farm, Fish, Flood Task Force to help resolve the conflicts between farms, fish recovery, and flood management in the Snoqualmie Valley.
- Advised County Executive's support of Washington State University's North Puget Sound Campus in the State legislative budget as well as supported legislation to sell Tall Chief Property to Keller Dairy.
- Completed strategic plan including application review, interview and integration process for eight new commissioners.
- Via letter to Flood District Commissioners on the System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) for the Lower Green, were able to have included: 1) support of agriculture in SWIF land use protections and priorities; 2) Agricultural Goals Statement; and 3) SWIF Policy Statement additions.
- Participated in the Local Food Initiative by reviewing targets, goals, and actions for the roadmap. Also played a key role in plan's implementation, particularly in regulatory reform.