

**King County Agriculture Commission  
DRAFT Minutes from  
Thursday, January 14, 2016  
Watershed Science Center, Issaquah**

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| Commissioners            | P | A | Commissioners       | P | A |
|--------------------------|---|---|---------------------|---|---|
| Nancy Hutto, Chair       | X |   | Bob Vos             | X |   |
| George Irwin, Vice Chair | X |   | Siri Erickson-Brown | X |   |
| Eldon Murray             |   | X | Larry Pickering     |   | X |
| Roger Calhoon            | X |   | Shelby Jors         | X |   |
| Leigh Newman-Bell        | X |   | LeAnn Krainick      | X |   |
| Meredith Molli           | X |   | Amy Holmes          | X |   |
| Anne Becker              | X |   |                     |   |   |

*P=Present; A=Absent*

| Staff Present                               |                |
|---|----------------|
| Patrice Barrentine                          | Richard Martin |
| Kathy Creahan                               | Randy Sandin   |
| Mike Lufkin                                 |                |
| Guests Present                              |                |
| Kate Delavan, American Farmland Trust (AFT) | Lora Liegel    |
| Chris Keenan, AFT                           | Jeff McMorris  |
| Bruce Elliott                               | Linda Neunzig  |

### Meeting Action Summary

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>December 2015 Meeting Minutes Approved</b></li> <li>• <b>KC Comp Plan Update</b></li> <li>• <b>Snohomish County Agriculture Overview</b></li> <li>• <b>Strategic Planning for 2016 Commission Topics</b></li> <li>• <b>Commission Elections/Appointments</b></li> </ul> |
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***Meeting Called to Order by Nancy Hutto at 4:00 pm***

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### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Meredith Molli to approve the December 10, 2015 minutes. The motion was seconded by Leigh Newman-Bell and passed unanimously. Kathy Creahan added that one phrase in the minutes, stating that the Magnochi farm was proposed to be re-designated as urban land in the upcoming comp plan, was incorrect, and she would follow up with Patrice Barrentine for a correction.

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by acclimation.

## **New Commissioners Update – Patrice Barrentine**

Patrice Barrentine gave a brief update on Commissioner appointments. She made a correction on Anne Becker's status, that Ms. Becker's voting privileges had indeed been approved by the King County Council (KCC) as of the prior Commission meeting. She added that Bruce Elliott's voting privileges, however, were still pending KCC approval.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **KC Comprehensive Plan Update – Kathy Creahan**

Kathy Creahan gave an update on the 2016 King County Comp Plan. She said the agriculture-related policy proposals and edits from the Commission had gone forward in the Public Review Draft process. She added that an Executive Proposed Draft with incorporated feedback would be transmitted to KCC at the beginning of March 2016. She detailed several land use and docket items that had not moved forward in the review process.

Nancy Hutto asked about the status of "Farm Flood Fish" (FFF) in this process. Ms. Creahan replied that a recommendation would not come out of the ongoing local FFF multi-stakeholder group meetings until after the transmittal of the Executive Proposed Draft to KCC, and that the two existing FFF policies would go forward unchanged. Any new recommendation from the stakeholder meetings, she continued, would go before KCC and be incorporated into their review of the comp plan. At the request of Ms. Hutto, Ms. Creahan then briefly reviewed the history of contention associated with FFF, largely between the conflicting goals of: protecting agricultural lands, utilizing land for salmon recovery, and flood risk reduction. Siri Erickson-Brown cited concern about ongoing conflicting directives in different sections of the comp plan in regards to these three goals. She suggested that current FFF policy language be modified to be more accessible to the public, so as to better inform them about FFF's specific goals. Lengthy discussion followed on multiple facets of the FFF implementation process, including concerns about the format and timing of FFF meetings.

## **Snohomish County Agriculture – Linda Neunzig, SC Ag Project Coordinator**

Patrice Barrentine introduced Linda Neunzig, who spoke on the subject of Snohomish County (SC) agriculture. She described SC's agriculture advisory board: 11 members, each representing different commodities and river basins in the area. She said that the board's primary goal for 2016 was to get "out and about" in the county, conducting field visits and holding meetings in different areas. She said an additional goal was for board members to create a work plan, to determine what each would like to accomplish in their position on the board.

She defined her role with SC as an ombudswoman to the farming community with constantly varying duties. The overall goal of her position is "economic development" for farmers, ensuring their ventures are profitable. She complimented King County's Farmland Preservation Program, stating this is an area where SC still struggles. She said there had been some success, though, and that two farmland preservation projects had been closed in SC in late 2015.

Her next topic was SAEDAT (“Snohomish County Agricultural Economic Development Action Team”). She described SAEDAT as containing all data the county had gathered from local farmers over a year, detailing what they need to be economically viable in their farming practices. She said the list was first compiled in 2008, and the county had now completed nearly everything on that list. She said the county’s next step would be to go back to local farmers this year and gather more current information.

The next topic was SC’s Sustainable Land Strategy (SLS), described as their version of King County’s FFF. SLS is set up with representatives from local native tribes, environmental habitat groups, and agriculture. The first year was largely spent building trust and mutual understanding between the represented groups, she said.

One significant obstacle farmers faced in the SLS/FFF conflicts, she said, was the lack of an easily defined goal/need for those in agriculture, as opposed to hard data numbers provided by the salmon recovery groups. Siri Erickson-Brown re-raised the discussion on defining economic viability for farmers, and her concern that what should be addressed is the future need in terms of farmland resource for an area to feed itself, particularly during crises. After this discussion Ms. Neunzig detailed several “wins” for agriculture that had been achieved by SLS: bringing more land back into agricultural production, increased drainage, etc. After some further discussion, a suggestion was raised about a possible future collaborative meeting between FFF and SLS.

She then spoke about Focus on Farming, a farming conference held annually in the city of Monroe. Focus on Forestry was added to the conference this year, she said, due to a lack of representation of the forestry industry in Snohomish County. She invited anyone from King County willing to contribute to the conference to contact her.

She concluded with upcoming projects for the county, one of which was direct foreign investments, such as introducing new industry to areas directly affected by the Oso landslide. Other potential investments included manufacture of cedar oil, shipping corn/grass silage to Japan, and construction of a geothermal hydroponic greenhouse.

## **BREAK**

### **Commission Policies/Procedures: Review & Modify – Nancy Hutto, Patrice Barrentine**

This topic was tabled for a future meeting.

### **Strategic Planning (Continued) – Patrice Barrentine**

Patrice Barrentine brought forth a compiled list of proposed action topics from previous meetings and organized a Commission vote to narrow down the five highest priorities for the Commission to address in 2016. She also invited Commissioners to submit any new topic suggestions. The top five choices after two rounds of voting were:

1. Drainage, water issues
2. Weigh in on County land purchases, RFP processes, etc. for future purchases (*tied for #1*)
3. Rules and regulations related to farming
4. Involve general public in supporting farming – political, market purchases (*tied for #3*)

## 5. Flood control improvements (along with FFF)

Additional topic suggestions included:

- Amend “Involve general public...” topic to include more emphasis on marketing to and educating a broader population on agriculture
- Strengthen relationships with Seattle Tilth, etc. to bolster representation of the county agricultural community
- Combine “MOUs with Seattle Tilth...” with “Weigh in on County land purchases, RFP...”
- Standing agenda item for more “quick reports” from a few key local agricultural organizations, on a rotating periodic basis
- Emphasis on more consistent/direct contact and discussion with the KCC/County Executive

### **Commission Elections – Nancy Hutto**

Nancy Hutto addressed the proposed nominations for Chair of the Commission, George Irwin, respectively. Calls for additional nominations yielded no results. Ms. Hutto entertained a motion to elect Mr. Irwin as Chair. Bob Vos made the motion and LeAnn Krainick seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Nancy Hutto addressed the proposed nominations for Vice Chair of the Commission, LeAnn Krainick, respectively. Anne Becker made the motion to elect Ms. Krainick as Vice Chair, George Irwin seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hutto then addressed the proposed nominations for a Primary and an Alternate member of the King Conservation District Advisory Board, Shelby Jors and Meredith Molli, respectively. Calls for additional nominations yielded no results. Ms. Hutto entertained a motion by George Irwin to elect Ms. Jors as Primary. Leigh Newman-Bell seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Anne Becker moved to elect Meredith Molli as the Alternate. George Irwin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Various Updates – Commissioners, KCD Staff, Mike Lufkin, Patrice Barrentine**

Amy Holmes complimented the assistance provided to the Commission by various entities throughout the code/Comp Plan revision process. Bob Vos added that he was encouraged by the progress with the proposed regulatory changes in regards to helping agriculture.

Amy Holmes gave an update on the King Conservation District (KCD). She said KCD was soliciting feedback from farmers on what they wished to learn more about, or showcase from their own farms. She said KCD was now publicly targeting efforts in the Newaukum Creek Basin area, and forming partnerships with American Farmland Trust and the state Department of Ecology. She added that KCD would have a booth at the Northwest Flower Show in February, and that the annual Native Plant Sale would be in March. She further added that KCD had elected two new individuals to assist on their Advisory Committee, and two more are being sought for Rural Landowner and Alternate positions on the Committee. She concluded by stating that KCD was still in search of an Executive Director.

Mike Lufkin provided an update on the status of the King County “One-Stop-Shop” (OSS) website. He said the OSS was meant to be a comprehensive online resource with useful information for farmers, and that the website had been in development for the past six to eight months. The site’s name will be [farmkingcounty.org](http://farmkingcounty.org) and has a live launch goal date of March 1. He said a beta-version of the site would be available for walk-through at the next Commission meeting prior to the live launch.

Patrice Barrentine reminded Commissioners that their annual Financial Disclosure forms were due. She made an additional statement recognizing the volunteer dedication of those who have served on the Commission, and that a reception for commissioner service is being planned for next meeting. The reception will start at 3:30 pm, to be followed by years-of-service recognitions as the first official agenda item for the meeting. Ms. Barrentine added an apology on behalf of John Taylor for his absence at this meeting, and relayed his heads-up regarding King County performing an upcoming winery study that would address concerns about possible winery infringements on Sammamish APD land.

Nancy Hutto was thanked for her time and service as Chair. Ms. Hutto said she had by and large enjoyed her time as Chair, and felt their voices as Commissioners had been valued and appreciated. She expressed her gratitude to the Commission.

***Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 pm***

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### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 4:00 pm

Issaquah Fish Hatchery, Watershed Science Center, Issaquah