



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

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**King County Agriculture Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 11th, 2017
Snoqualmie Public Library, Snoqualmie**

Commissioners	P	A	Commissioners	P	A	Commissioners	P	A
Leann Krainick, Chair Pro-Tem	X		Siri Erickson-Brown		X	Leigh Newman-Bell	X	
Amy Holmes, Vice Chair Pro-Tem	X		Shelby Jors		X	Larry Pickering	X	
Roger Calhoon		X	Meredith Molli		X	Bob Vos	X	
Bruce Elliott	X		Eldon Murray	X				

P=Present; A=Absent

County Staff Present		
Patrice Barrentine, DNRP	Richard Martin, DNRP	April Sanders, KCC
Steve Evans, DNRP	Megan Moore, DNRP	

Guests Present		
Liz Clark, King Conservation District	Erin Ericson, Snoqualmie Valley WID	Josh Monaghan, KCD

Meeting Action Summary

- Approval of April 13th Meeting Minutes
- County Agriculture Code Changes Update
- Review of Purpose of Commission and By-Laws
- FFF Update and Support Letter Review/Vote
- Other Updates: KCD, Farm Bureau, KC Agriculture Program, WSU Food Systems Team

Meeting Called to Order at 3:11 pm

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Amy Holmes motioned to approve tonight’s meeting agenda as written. Leigh Newman-Bell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Bruce Elliott motioned to approve the meeting minutes as written. Bob Vos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commission Details – Patrice Barrentine, DNRP

Patrice Barrentine reviewed several items. Commissioner Shelby Jors plans to return in July. There have been recent “phishing” attempts on County email accounts; Ms. Barrentine told Commissioners to delete suspicious messages in their County email. Karen Wolf at the County Executive’s office wants to discuss the Sammamish Valley wineries study results with the Commission; Ms. Barrentine advised this should occur via conference call on June 1. While there should be no immediate changes to County agriculture code from this study, future changes are likely. She said Commission vacancy recruitment will begin by June.

Public Comment

April Sanders of King County Council (KCC) member Kathy Lambert's office said no agriculture code changes are at Council, but there should be a draft of code updates resulting from the Sammamish Valley wineries study soon. Councilmember Lambert will hold another town hall meeting in June.

King County Agriculture Code Changes Update – Patrice Barrentine

Patrice Barrentine spoke on pending County agriculture zoning code changes. Erin Auzins, KCC policy analyst, and Randy Sandin of DPER are sharing information on these at public meetings. The changes have been met with general support or indifference, and are proceeding through the approval process normally. Ms. Barrentine noted several pending public meetings on this issue in County community service areas (CSAs). She described a new "agriculture permit review team," made of agents from several County jurisdictions. Its purpose is to lessen a need for costly conditional use permits (usually for buildings) and streamline the agriculture permitting process, via applicants coming directly to the team. Also pending is a step-by-step farm pad assistance process. She said updated code changes will be transmitted/approved at KCC by fall, and operational this time next year.

Purpose of Commission and By-Laws – Leann Krainick, Amy Holmes, Patrice Barrentine

Leann Krainick led the Commission in a line-by-line review of the Commission's existing rules and by-laws, to revise as needed for clarity, consistency, and timeliness. Patrice Barrentine tracked Commissioners' suggestions.

BREAK

Purpose of Commission and By-Laws, continued

The Commission continued their review. Due to time constraints, Leann Krainick tabled the unaddressed language to be later reviewed by herself and Patrice Barrentine, who will bring the full review results back for discussion at next Commission meeting.

Farm Fish Flood (FFF) Update – Commissioners, Patrice Barrentine

The Commission reviewed a draft letter to DNR Director Christie True, to support the Commission's FFF representative in signing the FFF agreement and transmittal letter. As a result of discussion, the draft was amended and restructured for clarity. Bob Vos motioned to approve the support letter as revised today. Leigh Newman-Bell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Livestock Workshops – Patrice Barrentine, Leann Krainick, Eldon Murray

Patrice Barrentine reported on evaluations from recent County livestock workshops in Enumclaw and Carnation. Many attendees reported new knowledge in several topics, including local buyer information and USDA slaughter standards. Many also indicated they would use a mobile meat processing unit if available. Ms. Barrentine noted cost feasibility of running such a unit in King County, on a likely seasonal basis, is still being explored.

Old Business: Updates – Commissioners, KC/KCD Staff

- **King Conservation District (KCD Staff):** Josh Monaghan said the annual pre-application cycle for the Food Grant Program is done, with 33 proposals in five categories. About \$700K in funds are available.
- **Farm Bureau (Bruce Elliott):** Mr. Elliott said membership recruiting, and battles for agriculture in Olympia, continue.
- **King County Agriculture Program (Richard Martin):** Mr. Martin reviewed ongoing staff efforts for agriculture, including a drainage crisis on the Snohomish/King County line, FFF 2.0 preparations, and developing a "Working Farmland Partnerships" group to assist specific landowners'/farmers' concerns.
- **WSU Small Farms/Food Systems Teams (Patrice Barrentine):** Ms. Barrentine reported the WSU extension Small Farms Team is now the Food Systems Team. She also said budget cuts at WSU and elsewhere in WA will likely lead to more regional and less county-specific agriculture support programs.
- **Other (Commissioners):** Mr. Elliott attended a recent dairy history presentation in Maple Valley by Ms. Krainick, "The Voice of the Valley," which is available online.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:03 pm

Next Meeting

July 13, 2017, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm, at Snoqualmie Public Library, Snoqualmie