



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104-3855
206-477-4800 Fax 206-296-0192
TTY Relay: 711

**King County Agriculture Commission
DRAFT Minutes
Thursday, September 8th, 2016
Snoqualmie Public Library, Snoqualmie**

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

P=Present; A=Absent

County Staff Present		
Patrice Barrentine, DNRP	Joan Lee, DNRP	Megan Moore, DNRP
Steve Evans, DNRP	Michael Lufkin, DNRP	April Sanders, KCC
Janne Kaje, DNRP	Richard Martin, DNRP	John Taylor, DNRP

Guests Present		
Melissa Borsting, Snoqualmie Valley Tilth	Josh Monaghan, KCD	Laura Casey
1 additional person (didn't sign in)		

Meeting Action Summary

- **Remembering George Irwin**
- **Approval of August 2016 Meeting Minutes**
- **Nomination/Election of Vice Chair Pro-Tem**
- **Marijuana Zoning Letter Approval**
- **FFF Presentation, Continued**
- **Surface Water Management (SWM) Fee Briefing**
- **Next Meeting: October 13th, 2016 at 21 Acres, Woodinville**

Meeting Called to Order at 4:06 pm

Remembering George Irwin – Patrice Barrentine

Patrice Barrentine read aloud a proclamation from County Executive Dow Constantine, declaring August 26th, 2016 a day to memorialize former Commissioner/Chair George Irwin, who passed away in August.

Commission Administrative Details – Patrice Barrentine

Patrice Barrentine stated that LeAnn Krainick, as former Vice Chair, will serve as Chair Pro-Tem until a new elected chair starts the new term in February 2017. Ms. Barrentine called for election of a new Vice Chair

Pro-Tem to serve until February, and the activation of the Selection committee to fill several Commission vacancies also coming in February. Amy Holmes and Bruce Elliott volunteered to serve on the committee.

Approval of Agenda

Amy Holmes made a motion to approve tonight's meeting agenda. Meredith Molli seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Bruce Elliott motioned to approve the August 11, 2016 meeting minutes, which Roger Calhoon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Nomination/Election of Vice Chair Pro-Tem – LeAnn Krainick

Bob Vos nominated Amy Holmes to serve as Vice Chair Pro-Tem. Ms. Holmes accepted the nomination; there were no additional nominations. Meredith Molli motioned to accept the appointment of Ms. Holmes; Siri Erickson-Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous acclamation.

Marijuana Zoning Letter Approval – LeAnn Krainick

Patrice Barrentine reported on the revised marijuana zoning letter to the King County Council (KCC) and Executive which the Commission approved at the August meeting. Former Chair George Irwin passed away before he could sign off on the final letter, prompting need for a new motion and vote to send the letter. Bob Vos motioned to send the letter; Bruce Elliott seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Fish Farm Flood (FFF) Presentation – Janne Kaje & John Taylor, DNRP

Janne Kaje, Snoqualmie Salmon Recovery Manager for King County DNRP, continued a presentation from August's meeting, overviewing the Snoqualmie Valley Fish Farm Flood (FFF) "Agreement in Principle" that was reached in May 2016. Mr. Kaje detailed a list of recommendations from the Agreement which fall under three major categories. The first involves revision to County Comprehensive Plan policy R-650, which gave rise to proposed policy R-650A; this addresses FFF policy specific to the Snoqualmie Valley. The second category addresses creation of three task forces: regulatory, riparian buffers, and agriculture strategic planning for the Valley. The third category involves a list of 30+ recommended actions, which fall under several major themes: mitigate flood risk, accelerate large salmon habitat restoration projects, protect (but not necessarily add to) the existing agricultural land base, and develop a comprehensive drainage program. He stressed there has been an ongoing effort among the FFF caucuses to support each other's highest priorities. He reviewed at length the list of recommended actions.

LeAnn Krainick asked for elaboration on a recommendation addressing resources for farm worker housing outside the river floodplain. Mr. Kaje and John Taylor explained that DNRP has been working with the city of Duvall for the last few years to set up low-income housing which could also house farm workers. There were several other Commissioner questions asking for clarification on specific recommendation points.

Patrice Barrentine distributed a handout table constructed from "sticky note" brainstorming sessions among the caucuses, showing a draft implementation timeline for the higher-priority recommendations. Detailed feedback discussion emphasized a need for priorities from all caucuses to move forward together, and how to define and enforce that progress. Commissioners asked for more language in the agreement as well as explicit linkages between bundled items in the timeline.

Other concerns were noted:

- Precise language about bundling and what will happen if timeline is not adhered to;
- addition of the following to the 2.0 potential members:

- independent farmers;
- PCC Farmland Trust;
- Farm Bureau;
- Citizens Alliance for Property Rights;
- more clearly defining which participating entities represent which caucus from the start of 2.0;
- adding a “pledge of solidarity” between caucuses to the Agreement to specifically state what signing the document means;
- in addition a request for an update on the proposed definitions of agriculture and agricultural activities as part of the Comp Plan was requested.

Mr. Taylor suggested fine-tuning the timeline and incorporating the other suggestions into the draft agreement for review before next month’s meeting. Ms. Barrentine advised additional feedback should be due to her by one week from today, and that she could have the timeline and materials ready for review a week later, two weeks prior to next meeting.

BREAK

Surface Water Management (SWM) Fee Briefing – John Taylor, DNRP

John Taylor of DNRP overviewed King County’s Surface Water Management (SWM) program. He explained the program’s basis, that increased urban development in an area leads to less water absorbed into the soil. This increases runoff and flooding in local creeks and tributaries, as well as hazards for fish populations.

The SWM fee was implemented for residents and businesses in unincorporated King County to manage surface water, prevent localized flooding, and protect water quality. Businesses pay based on total amount of “impervious” surface (like roads) on their parcel; single family residential owners pay \$171.50 per parcel. This generates about \$24 million in revenue for the County annually. That revenue is utilized to fund maintenance of current County assets, support programs for agricultural/rural residents, salmon habitat restoration, and County “best-run government” practices.

Bob Vos asked why part of the revenue is allocated for salmon recovery; Mr. Taylor explained it is a “burden offset” fee to pay for historic damage to receiving water bodies from the years when water quality was mismanaged. Siri Erickson-Brown asked for a typical residential rate in a city; Mr. Taylor presented a chart of rates for jurisdictions in the County, ranging from Woodinville at under \$100 per parcel, to Seattle (which uses a tiered system based on parcel size) at about \$400 per parcel.

Mr. Taylor then explained some of the challenges in managing the program. These include drainage concerns for roadways; increased services for farmers and other rural property owners; the eventual goal of making as many storm drains, pipes, creeks etc. in the County as passable for fish as possible, as well as proactive management of current assets to prevent expensive infrastructure failures.

In 2014, Mr. Taylor went on, the King County Council (KCC) directed the Executive’s office to assess drainage infrastructure for the County’s Roads division. The hired consultant determined that it would cost between \$335 million to \$500 million to replace the 6,000 lengths of pipe in the Roads division’s inventory in the next ten years; total 100-year replacement would range between \$750 million to \$830 million. Therefore, Mr. Taylor explained, a rate revision/increase is being proposed. There are three proposed options, ranging from a 37% increase (a total of \$6.5 million in additional annual revenue), to a 57% increase (\$11.5 million in additional annual revenue). The most basic proposal would help fund FFF and various drainage management issues; the other two proposals would fund those issues as well as additional Roads Services Division drainage work. A decision from KCC is expected in Fall 2016, with implementation of the chosen option slated for January 2017.

Amy Holmes expressed concern that there has been little room for public input on this issue. Mr. Taylor said if the Commission has an opinion on this topic, it needs to be addressed, but that in the meantime Commissioners are welcome to share the information from tonight's presentation with their communities.

Updates – Sammamish Valley Winery Study, WSDE CAFO Letter

- **Sammamish Valley Winery Study:** Due to short time, LeAnn Krainick recommended tabling this until next month; Patrice Barrentine distributed a handout from the last study meeting for review.
- **Ecology CAFO Letter and Comments:** Ms. Krainick thanked Richard Martin of DNRP for the County's letter to WA State Department of Ecology (ECY) regarding the proposed Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit language revisions. Mr. Martin recommended interested parties also view a letter to ECY from Whatcom County on this issue.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:12 pm

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 13th, 2016 at 5:00 pm (Farm tour will precede meeting at 3:00 pm.)
21 Acres, Woodinville