

King County Agriculture Commission

DRAFT Minutes from

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Watershed Science Center, Issaquah

Commissioners	P	A	Commissioners	P	A
Nancy Hutto, Chair	X		Bob Tidball	X	
Michael Blakely	X		George Irwin		X
Matt Tregoning		X	Siri Erickson-Brown	X	
Bob Vos	X		Pat Traub (Commission Applicant)		X
Larry Pickering	X		Ward Roney	X	
Eldon Murray	X				

P=Present; A=Absent

Staff Present	
Kathy Creahan	Janne Kaje
Kollin Higgins	Patrice Barrentine
John Taylor	Joan Lee
Steve Evans	Rick Reinlasoeder
Guests Present	
Meredith Mollie	Kelly Thao
Pat Mc Glothlin	Dan Albert
Cynthia Krass	Leigh Newman-Bell
Darron Marzolf	Jason Brown, Councilmember Dunn's Office
April Sanders, Councilmember Lambert's Office	Josh Monaghan
Mark Hoppen, Flood Control District	Caroline Burney
Anne Becker	

Meeting Action Summary

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January Meeting Minutes were approved • System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) by the Flood Control District in the lower Green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion passed unanimously to submit Ag Goals Statement and Policy Recommendations to SWIF ○ Motion passed unanimously to submit letter to County Executive and Chair of Flood Control District about incorporating agriculture land into SWIF policies • Farm Fish Flood: 3 sectors' caucus recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We need 1 hour chunk of time next meeting to discuss definitions for FFF Process |
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Meeting Highlights with Action Items in Text Boxes

Called to Order 4:02 pm

Approval of Minutes

Eldon Murray made a motion to approve the minutes. Bob Vos seconded.

January meeting minutes approved unanimously

Public Comment

None

SWIF – John Taylor, KC WLRD Assistant Division Director and KC staff Lorin Reinelt, and Jennifer Knauer

John Taylor: Background on where we are:

On Tuesday morning of this week, KC WLRD management and staff John Taylor, Lorin Reinelt, Jennifer Knauer and Patrice Barrentine, met with Mark Hoppen, Flood Control District and Ag Commissioners Nancy Hutto, Bob Vos, and Bob Tidball to learn about SWIF as it enters its final stages. It is a high level political process, but farming and farm preservation are missing from the key policy documents. Jennifer and Lorin explained the process and pointed to key documents and ways that agriculture might be included.

Based on the recommendations and commissioners comments, two documents were drafted by Patrice (see pp. 11-20 of the 2.12.15 Meeting Packet) to submit to the SWIF process.

In addition, John Taylor, Jennifer Knauer, and the commissioners met with Councilmember Lambert about these issues yesterday.

Jennifer recommended that the goals and ag introduction are most useful pieces to submit because the policy document is constantly changing.

Feb 17, 2:30 pm is the next Flood Meeting

BT: the goals document on p. 11 does not meet the needs of protecting agriculture.

April Sanders (Councilmember Lambert's office) clarified that they are working on language to include agricultural representation at each SWIF project plan work meeting going forward.

BT: The goals are not enough; wants it incorporated into the SWIF policies itself.

BT: Would like to make more changes to the strike changes policy document.

BT: April took notes at yesterday's meeting

BT: Is all of the APD added?

April: Yes, that has been added in by Councilmember Lambert.

BT: Does the policy being fabricated right now include participation?

April: It is my boss' intent to include agricultural participation. She will not vote on it unless it is there.

BV: Better off if we had a small set of goals that are fairly concise: combine 4, 5, and 6

LP: Land is not the same. Wetland versus high and dry land with more months of production.

Nancy: Would we want to add a goal that prioritizes high value land?

BT: No.

BV: thinks it's important to cite the RCW requiring stakeholders be involved.

Motion to include: Larry Pickering; second Siri Erickson-Brown

Discussion:

Michaele: Amend the motion to include Bob V.'s suggestion

Passed amendment unanimously.

Bob V: Can the goals be referenced in the SWIF policy – Jennifer can make it happen

Passed unanimously.

April Sanders will email document early tomorrow; Patrice will email to commissioners. Subcommittee will phone conference. Commissioners can continue to work on fine tuning.

BT: Encourages AG Commissioners to attend Flood meeting

Nancy can make it.

Send letter that says the goals are being submitted and that the commission has taken a stance?

Yes

Motion to send letter BT; second BV. Passed unanimously.

Jennifer: Would the Lower green Subcommittee be key contacts?

John: Yes, Lower Green subcommittee is launched.

Nancy: Want to be involved in the Lower Green Subcommittee:

- Bob Tidball
- Bob Vos
- Eldon Murray
- Nancy Hutto

Motion passed unanimously to submit Ag Goals Statement and Policy Recommendations to SWIF

Motion passed unanimously to submit letter to County Executive and Chair of Flood Control District about incorporating agriculture land into SWIF policies

Farm Fish Flood: 3 sectors' caucus recommendations- Janne Kaje

Caucus recommendations for each three sectors (pp. 21-29 of 2.12.15 meeting packet)

These are going to be the cornerstones of our agreements. We are trying to get to a first generation agreement and there will be more work to do over time. Some things are partly baked and there will be some loose ends.

1. Flood Outcomes and Solutions

Alluvial reaches (where the river used to be) are best for setback projects.

Bob Voss: No net loss of ag lands is often used and needs to be defined.

Michaele: Improvement of transportation. I'm assuming that no one in the valley recommended that. I would not support that because of raising 127 increased flooding because it was built by fill.

Janne: the proposal is to raise it on piles, not fill.

BV: Outcome 1, #2; has mixed feelings about raising farm buildings. The cost of elevating the farm building was 3 times the cost of building a new farm building.

Janne: that was a pilot; the county provided most of the fees in order to better understand to figure out the costs and how it works.

2. Fish Outcomes

BV: That's nice for them to say that, but it seems to me that they are saying ag land will be taken

BT: Highlights policy R650 for restoration projects that says no net loss of ag land

Janne: Lots of details to work out on buffers

LP: Is there willingness to move toward very short term stream problems (turbidity) in order to implement some long term drainage solutions?

Siri: I requested a lot of edits to this same policy that the farm group recommended regulatory change to ensure drainage happens long term.

BV: Combine drainage ways and meander; is there any farmer who supported this? To me this makes as much sense as: You can improve traffic by unstraightening highways and meandering them.

Siri: Disagree that this provides benefit to ag and fish. I don't know that it's true.

Janne: Recommended Siri incorporate Bob's point in next FFF integrated documents meetings.

Josh Monaghan: Relayed some valuable points from the process

Kollin Higgins: Suggested "on channel"; change the word "provides"

3. Farm Outcomes

Ward: They're going to do a pilot tile project on my property because there was a cave-in by the road.

BV: Will expert tilers be involved? Will the KCD be involved?

Josh Monaghan: Yes, we've been working with Brian.

Bob Voss: Volunteered to help with tiling. He has lots of experience.

BT: How many ag engineers do you have to support you in this work like you do in Fish, Flood and Water? You depend on volunteers like us to advise you. We need a soil scientist or engineer added to the Ag Program Staff. Wants to elevate the need all the way to the council to get ag funding to county programs.

Joan Lee: General fund dollars... are a problem... we did add a new engineer to ADAP.

Siri: I do not feel very competent or adequate to represent these interests. We need a lot more information, a lot more support to make recommendations.

Michaele: I have a recommendation: **There's nothing here to save higher ag ground.**

Josh: Help us navigate this.

Joan: asked for specific ag staffing recommendations for expertise needed.

BV: Appreciates F7: Store winter flows in uplands – define what we can do , like drain tiles.

Janne: Next Meetings

- **Tomorrow: Mitigation framework discussion, Brightwater**
- **Thurs 19th, 1-2pm Pre-sounding board meeting for Commission and Ag Caucus**
 - Michaele, Siri, Nancy will plan to attend
- **Next Thursday, 2-4 Ag Sounding Board, Carnation Fire Station**
- **Monday 23rd 10-3 mtg at Girl Scout Camp in Carnation**

- **March 25th 4:30, FFF, Carnation Community Center**

Nancy: Can we get the terms to define?

Yes, Janne will work with Patrice to get working list of terms to commissioners.

We need 1 hour chunk of time next meeting to discuss definitions for FFF Process

Joan: John Taylor is the Dept's rep on the comp plan. FFF recommendation is already highlighted and will go in comp plan.

New Business

BT: Would like update on controversial issues that have happened over time such as Carnation Farm issue and Zoo farm.

Updates

KCD – new grant and cost-share monies coming available; working out the details of the programs now

KC Financial Disclosure Forms Needed from Commissioners

Adjourned 7:15 pm

Next Meeting

Thursday March 12th, 2015

Issaquah Fish Hatchery, Watershed Science Center, Issaquah