

King County Agriculture Commission

Approved Minutes from Thursday, March 12, 2015

Watershed Science Center, Issaquah

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

P=Present; A=Absent

| Staff Present | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Kathy Creahan | Janne Kaje |
| Ted Sullivan | Patrice Barrentine |
| John Taylor | Joan Lee |
| Steve Evans | Tamie Kellogg |
| Rick Reinlasoder | |
| Guests Present | |
| Meredith Mollie | Josh Monaghan |
| Pat Mc Glothlin | Councilmember Kathy Lambert |
| April Sanders, Councilmember Lambert's Office x | Shelby Jors |
| Leeann Krainick x | Kurt Tonnemaker |
| Liz Clark x | Scott Powell xx |
| Dan Albert | Roger Calhoon x |
| Laura Thomas x | Alan Painter |
| Bruce Elliott x | Ralph Svrjcek, Ecology |
| Darryl Williams | ECY – David Radabaugh |
| Cindy Spiry | Patty Irwin |

Meeting Action Summary

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March Meeting Minutes were approved • Commissioners reviewed and edited their recommendations for agricultural improvements to the Farm Fish Flood Ag Caucus • Updates on Tall Chief, KCD, Ag Regulatory Survey, and New Commissioner Selection were shared |
|--|

Meeting Highlights with Action Items in Text Boxes

Called to Order 4:10 pm

Approval of Minutes

Bob Vos made a motion to approve the minutes. Bob Tidball seconded.

March meeting minutes approved unanimously

Public Comment

None

Review Integration of Agricultural Improvements into Farm Fish Flood Part 1

The Commission led by KC AFI Program Manager, Kathy Creahan worked through and modified a table of recommendations regarding the Farm Fish Flood (FFF) process. Much of that discussion is caught in the table itself.

Kathy Creahan: Let me give a little background. Last month (in March) the commission came up with a number of statements that we took down in notes on the board. We captured those in the statements in the left hand column of the table. Since then we had a meeting with Bob Tidball, Bob Vos, Nancy Hutto, Josh Monaghan, Patrice Barrentine and myself. And a few more items were added, plus information from Josh and the Ag Caucus for clarification from Sounding Board meetings and we wrote these up as some draft issues from the Commission. Then Bob Tidball had asked where some of the conflicts might be in these issues, so we drafted this table and the right hand column to show where the FFF currently stands on the issue.

I think it would be useful to run through the whole list and then go back through and discuss it. Then we can go back and edit, refine, delete, etc. these statements. Our goal with this is to end up with a list of statements, interests that can be written in a way that can be sent to FFF, to the Council, to the Executive as a letter, a statement, or a list of interest statements. That would be our hope to come out of this meeting with.

So, let's read through the left hand column and then we'll start refining it.

Bob Vos: I know on the phone we talked about the need for Agricultural Policy, do you see this as being adopted as policy? Is that what we're doing here? You called them interest statements.

Kathy Creahan: Presently, they are interest statements. While the Council adopts policy, this could be a policy recommendation for the council, but currently we are crafting the statements that you would like to recommend for inclusion to the FFF Ag Caucus at their request. There are strong policies in the Comp Plan that support agriculture. We can revisit the Comp Plan and see if we think there need to be changes.

Please see updated table from this discussion in May 14, 2015 Agenda and Meeting Packet. The red font in the table was added in this April meeting.

Chair, Nancy Hutto invited comments from FFF attendees

Ralph Svrjcek, Dept of Ecology: Really encouraged by this work. I know your task is looking at issues across the county, but FFF is doing a great job focusing on issues in the valley. Hope the commission will focus on short term gains. Excited about studying drain tiles. The King Co side is very top notch. There's no one I'd rather see tasked with accomplishing difficult goals than this group.

Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes: FFF committee is a great group to work with. We have to be open with each other and work with each other to get agreements that we can all live with. We have a major problem with setting a cap, but what we'd like to see a net gain in fish habitat and agriculture. We want to see agriculture grow and we want to see it stay in the valley.

Break -15 minutes

Review Integration of Agricultural Improvements into Farm Fish Flood Part 2

TIMELINE:



We want to have another Ag Community Small Group Meeting like we had in March with Erick Haakenson and Nancy and Bob Tidball plus the Ag Caucus members before your next meeting.

So, we now have an almost complete statement of interest which we will get out to you. Then, we will bring you a draft letter and get Siri and Josh's feedback on it since that is so important and they are not able to be here tonight and if we could finalize that letter prior to the next Ag Commission Meeting May 14th, that would be great. And then we can bring that document to the ag Group meeting and to the FFF AG Caucus and get their feedback on it. Would people be in agreement that we should get this drafted, get some discussion from Siri and Josh, and get this out to you and then by email get this out to you?

Nancy Hutto: July-Oct Is prime farming time – it's hard to be on task forces. This work should include active farmers, not just semi-retired farmers.

Kathy Creahan: So, we will have to talk about that and get back to you on that. So, look for the ag caucus meeting and draft this document for you in short order and get this out to you. Thank you for your great work on this tonight.

Leann Krainick: In order to reach more landowners for processes like these, I recommend you coordinate with Wendy in commercial current use tax exemption because we have to let the assessor's office know who the landowners from whom we lease so that they can get the tax exemption, but Wendy has the leasing farmers' names and addresses, too. The landowners do not always forward information to the leasing farmers, but Wendy can do that directly.

Liz Clark: #5 reads for food crops; does that include livestock – change to food production.

Cynthia Krass: FFF presentation on tribal rights was very helpful last meeting and it might be useful.

Nancy: We got the Powerpoint presentation from Janne via email.

Implementing the Commission's 2015 Strategic Plan Actions

Patrice: Due to a technology issue, I'd like to recommend delaying the plan and instead focus on commissioner's interest in committees.



1. Selection

- Nancy Hutto
- Bob Vos
- Bob Tidball
- Siri Erickson-Brown
- George Irwin

2. Lower Green

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

3. Regulatory

- Larry Pickering
- Bob Vos

4. Farmland Preservation Program

- George Irwin
- Bob Tidball

5. Snoqualmie/FFF

- Siri Erickson-Brown
- Larry Pickering
- Nancy Hutto

Updates:

Tall Chief: Kathy Creahan – We are negotiating right now with the Keller Family who was the top proposal of three proposals that we got. They are going to purchase the property. We are close to an agreement based on their proposal. We got a proposal from Seattle Tilth, and from Kou Oh and Fong Cha, both of them were great proposals, we'd love to also see them implemented. But the Keller's was compelling, in large part, because they are right next door to Tall Chief and they will be able to get the land in production quickly. It is really important to their farm to have additional acreage on this side of the river to grow additional silage and to spread manure. They've been farming in the Snoqualmie Valley for 5 generations. This will ensure they can continue to farm here with the additional acreage and house site for the youngest generation. Their proposal is that they will farm all of the lowland with corn and then the upper bench will be leased out to area farmers for greenhouse production to extend the season. The buildings on the property are all in pretty bad shape, but they are going to evaluate them and the old Pro Shop is proposed to be used for community meetings. They would allow storage for neighboring farmers to store equipment up out of the floodplain or neighbor, in addition to farmworker housing.

KCD: Liz Clark - Regional Food System Program Grant Draft concept was introduced. A full launch will be in the meeting next month by Josh Monaghan.

Ag Regulatory Survey: Patrice Barrentine, Lauren Marquardt, Meredith Stilwell - introduced the King County Regulatory Survey done in partnership with UW Evans School students for their MPA project. The survey is online and two rounds of 1,000 postcards are going to farmers in the county as well as through electronic list serves. The survey will be open until the end of the month. Please help us reach farmers. The link was shared: www.kingcounty.gov/agsurvey

New Ag Commissioners Selection Process: Patrice Barrentine – Since the March Commission meeting, our selection committee met and reviewed all of the 19 applications, in addition, our internal group reviewed them, too. The selection committee has chosen 15 of the 19 applicants to interview for the eight open slots this year. The selection committee may also use this slate of strong candidates for the positions that open in 2016 as well. At this point, we have interviewed 4 candidates prior to the meeting today and have 11 to go and hope to complete all the interviews this month and have our new commissioners on board for the June meeting. That is our current plan.

Adjourned 6:55 pm

Next Meeting

Thursday May 14th, 2015

Issaquah Fish Hatchery, Watershed Science Center, Issaquah