

KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY JULY 11, 2024

6:00-8:00 P.M.

ZOOM VIDEO CALL

CALL IN:

One tap mobile: +12532050468,,87122513124#,,,,*264948#

Land line: +1 253 205 0468 US, Meeting ID: 871 2251 3124

OR

LOG IN FROM A COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87122513124?pwd=ncPqlnuF1Zx7pwH2jj7fTgfT2Z993k.1>

MEETING AGENDA

6:00	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">For the public record, please sign in via the chat feature or announce yourself by name and whether you are a commissioner, staff or member of the publicApproval of AgendaApproval of Meeting Minutes: May	Stacey Smith, Chair
6:05	Public Comment related to a specific agenda item <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Stacey Smith
6:10	Old Business Committee Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Field Trip – Marzolf MeatsSelection Committee - Recruitment	Patrice Barrentine, Darron Marzolf, Jessi Bloom, Janet Keller, Stacey Smith
6:20	King Conservation District <ul style="list-style-type: none">New KCD Board of Supervisors, Position #4KCD Advisory Board - new rep from Commission, optionsRate Renewal letter of programmatic support<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussion	Richard Martin, Jessi Bloom, Patrice Barrentine
6:30	New Business Introducing New DNRP Director, John Taylor	John Taylor, Director, DNRP
6:45	Local Food Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none">Food System Advisory CouncilQ&AMotion/Vote to add Kevin as ex officio member of FSAC	Mike Lufkin, Food Economy Program Manager, DNRP Stacey Smith
7:10	Meeting Minutes Research and Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">PresentationDiscussion	Patrice Barrentine and Lyn Tampi, Agriculture Program, WLRD, DNRP
7:30	Updates (approx. 3 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Commission Details, Policy, Ag Education & Events<ul style="list-style-type: none">DLS Permitting Update on Events in APDKing County Ag ProgramKing Conservation DistrictWashington State University CSANRKing-Pierce Farm BureauFarm Fish Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Patrice BarrentineRichard MartinMatt MegaPatrice for Alyssa BowersPatrice for Leann KrainickRichard Martin
7:50	General Public Comment <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Stacey Smith
7:55	Concerns of Commissioners	Stacey Smith
8:00	Adjourn	Stacey Smith

Next Meeting: September 12, 2024



King County
Water and Land Resources Division
 Department of Natural Resources and Parks
 King Street Center
 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5600
 Seattle, WA 98104-3855
206-477-4800 Fax 206-296-0192
 TTY Relay: 711

King County Agriculture Commission
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 9, 2024 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Zoom Video Conference Call

Commissioners Present (Y/N)					
Stacey Smith, Chair	Y	Andrew Ely	N	Leann Krainick	Y
Jessi Bloom Vice-Chair	Y	Janet Keller	Y	Shelley Pasco	N
Darron Marzolf	N	Henna Khan	N	Kevin Scott-Vandenberg	Y
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Jordan Jobe, WSU	N	Matt Mega, KCD	Y		
County Staff/Representatives Present					
Patrice Barrentine, DNRP	Richard Martin, DNRP		Mike Lufkin, LFI		
Guests Present					
Alyssa Bowers, WSU	Nathan Sherfey				

Meeting Summary

- **Actions: Approval of Agenda; Updates from Patrice Barrentine, Richard Martin, Alyssa Bowers, and Leann Krainick; Information on the LFI from Mike Lufkin; Information from Matt Mega on KCD Rates and Charges; Updates re: Elk; Updates regarding Letters and their responses; and a discussion on activating the field trip and selection committees.**

Meeting called to order by Chair Stacey Smith at 6:02 pm with quorum

Roll Call/Announcement of Staff & Public (Stacey Smith)

Roll call of Commissioners and announcement of staff and public guests was completed via Zoom’s chat function.

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Agenda (Stacey Smith)

Moved by Kevin Scott-Vandenberg, seconded by Janet Keller, and passed unanimously.

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Minutes (Stacey Smith)

This was approving meeting minutes from October, January, February, and April. Moved by Kevin Scott-Vandenberg, seconded by Leann Krainick, and passed unanimously.

Public Comment – Specific Agenda Item (Stacey Smith)

There was no public comment at this time.

Updates (Patrice Barrentine, Matt Mega, Leann Krainick, Richard Martin)

Commission Details, Policy, Ag Education & Events (Patrice Barrentine)

Patrice Barrentine gave a shout out to Lyn Tampi, a term-limited temporary employee who helped to complete the meeting minutes of the previous months. Patrice then proceeded to discuss the proposed minimum wage ordinance, which, on Tuesday, was discussed before full council. No vote had occurred yet, and it is likely the next meeting they have, on May 14th, they will vote. Council member Perry submitted an amendment, with comments continuing to move up. Leann Krainick adds that Janet got an amendment sponsored by **Council Member Dunn** which would add a tip credit for healthcare insurance premiums paid by employers. It didn’t include any credits for employee housing, which is on the docket. Leann gets clarification that none of the things the commission addressed in the letter are being considered as part of the legislation that would occur later. Patrice says that they would be rolled into a more in-depth

report. The ordinance would go into effect January 1, 2025, and the report with the recommendations to implement would be due to the Executive by June 30, 2025. Patrice moves onto discuss highlights in the Local Food Initiative newsletter. There is a new census out for agriculture, mapping commissary kitchens in King County, making a nice tool to show how the kitchens can be shared. She encourages commissioners to check it out. Patrice talks about an upcoming webinar on Noxious Weeds, and she highlights a grant from King County called the Circular Economy grant. This grant is for waste provision, reuse, recycling, and organics recycling, awards ranging from \$20,000-\$300,000. Applications are due May 29th. Patrice then discusses the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), which gave a rule on what water sources used to irrigate crops that will be eaten, and the testing intervals required. Compliance states that start first with large farms, then move to small farms. This will be starting next year.

King County Ag Program (Richard Martin)

Richard talks about Bee Cha being selected as the permanent farm manager; a new position being advertised soon which is a slight revisioning of the position Eric Beach held. Key responsibilities for this position include coordinating the regulatory permitting work, supporting farmland owners and farmers to navigate the permitting pathways, providing support for Farm, Fish, Flood, and working with Patrice to identify key strategies outlined in the SnoValley Ag Strat Plan. This will help start developing work plans and seeking funding to get progress on the body of work. Richard then recognizes Ted Sullivan, the farmland preservation program manager, for completing his 30th year with King County. Richard then discusses a new program hopefully being launched later this year, making farms more climate friendly and resilient- whole farm stewardship plans. There will be a consultant to help fully develop a template for these plans and develop a few pilot plans; the request for proposals will be issued sometime soon.

Washington State University CSANR (Alyssa Bowers)

Alyssa said they would be fully staffed by May 16th and submitted their county annual report. She also got a message from a professor at WSU looking to have some ag producers to be involved in a Biochar project, and they are applying for one of the circular grants. No updates from Jordan.

If anyone is interested in the WSU Biochar Grant Project, contact alyssa.bowers1@gmail.com.

King-Pierce Farm Bureau (Leann Krainick)

Leann Krainick says the candidate evaluation committee has formed, **Chenelle Tyack** being the chairman of it. They are looking at the State House and Senate races for districts that are in King and Pierce County, if there is any feedback, let them know to help them make their decision. Since the commission isn't scheduled to have a meeting in June or August, and Leann may not be there for the July meet. Leann then mentions Ag in the Ballpark, date to be announced. It will be a fireworks night at the Tacoma Rainiers, a family event that is ag-focused. There may be local ag snacks for people to buy at a concession stand. She then mentions that WSDA and WSU are sponsoring an Agriculture Viability Conference in Kennewick on Wednesday May 29th, which is targeted towards beginning producers, farmers, and ranchers. On the Thursday, is a conference with keynote speakers, Chris Johnson (President of the Washington Association of Business), Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck, and a fireside chat with the US House of Representatives. This event requires registration.

WSDA Ag Viability Conference: <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/directors-office/agriculture-viability-conference>

King County Ag Program and Farm, Fish, Flood (Richard Martin)

Richard Martin gave updates about related policies in the comprehensive plan- one of the policies was championed by the farm caucus of FFF, so they are exploring the possibility of acquiring a piece of property or doing restoration on piece of property, there is a mandate to have a clear process to review the potential implications on ag and how to mitigate those impacts. The executive transmitted some language to council which was revised and enhanced at the request of the Farm Caucus, the executive coming back to the Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) to make sure they are comfortable with the new language, but the bottom line is that there is a need to review projects early on in their development phase to minimize impacts to ag. Richard then talks about changes on the IOC: Lauren Silver Turner was selected as the Farm Caucus Chair, a seat was added to the IOC for the Watershed Improvement District with Erin Ericsson appointed to that position, and Meredith Molly is no longer an ag commission representative. There will be a meeting scheduled at the IOC in the fall, focusing on large restoration projects in the valley with an important focus on how development of those projects, planning of those projects takes into consideration ag impacts, and how those projects try to mitigate impacts to ag. Patrice will inform commission members on when the meetings are scheduled.

New Business: Local Food Initiative/LFI (Mike Lufkin)

Mike Lufkin gives a review of how LFI came up and what it does for King County by going over its focus areas. He then discusses the reason for updating LFI (the pandemic, climate change, etc.) and how they are updating the LFI. This includes creating the King County Food System Advisory Council, retaining consultant support, extensive food system stakeholder outreach and engagement, research and policy development, climate resilience and equity, and the creation of strategies. He shows a list of members in the FSAC and gives a rundown on what the FSAC does, including supporting and advising the 2024 LFI process, guiding the KCD regional food system program, evaluating LFI progress, and facilitating coordination and communication among the local food system. Mike gives examples of how consultants can give support, the issues to be addressed for stakeholder outreach and engagement, and how research and policy are developing. He shows the commission the project timeline and gives some ideas on how the commission can engage with LFI.

Kevin suggested one of the commissioners sitting in on LFI meetings to help, which Kevin and Mike will discuss later. Janet brought up the minimum wage issue, which Mike didn't have an answer for it now. Leann brought up partnerships and the need for a mentorship program to prevent the loss of farms. Mike says outreach and engagement will use education, and there are some farm training programs available, but definitely need more when thinking about the long-term.

See presentation online.

New Business: King Conservation District Rates & Charges++ (Matt Mega)

Matt gave a snapshot of things that KCD does, reviewing what Farm and Rural Services does, along with what Urban/Rural Riparian teams do. He discusses the work for CREP and large ag buffers, as well as marine and lakeshores, urban/rural forestry. He then goes into member jurisdiction grants, in which participating member jurisdictions can apply for a grant and implement a conservation project (for all cities except for Enumclaw, Federal Way, Milton, Pacific, and Skykomish). After this broad overview, he goes into explaining the rates and charges and the interlocal agreement with King County. This agreement is between KCD and the County, establishing the official agreement, program of work and cost. Rates and charges are the legal foundation on how the money is collected and divided to the program of work categories. Tax parcels under different categories pay varying amounts, so KCD has a consultant that links all that together and establishes the rate to align with budget. He shows a 2020-2024 snapshot of the interlocal agreement, needing a new one approved by the end of the year. The proposed rate categories are farm services and working lands sustainability, riparian improvement, forest health, member jurisdiction grants and services, administration, and CORE services. He discusses where funding comes from, and a timeline to renewal. There are two listening sessions coming up (May 16 from 6-7pm, May 21 from 12-1pm).

Leann asks about the percentage being raised each year not having a ceiling, which Matt answers that there is a ceiling of \$15. There are conversations about raising that above \$15 but not having it unlimited. Patrice notices that ag parcels have the highest rate for KCD, which is because KCD is founded soil conservation district and helping farmers, meaning there is a little more direct services provided to that. Matt recommends getting a better answer from the consultants who may be at the listening sessions.

See presentation online.

Link to listening sessions: <https://kingcd.org/get-involved/events/?highlight=events>

Elk Updates (Stacey Smith)

The commission discussed updates regarding Elk in Snoqualmie Valley. WDFW is going to collar two Elk on Stacey's farm. The collars will have refurbished batteries, and WDFW wants to see if they can find some other parcel to allow hunting, needing documentation to figure out where the elk are at.

ACTION/Old Business: Letters and Responses (Patrice Barrentine)

The committee had been sending a lot of letters, so this is an update on all those letters. Patrice first goes over the Large Events on Farmland in APDs, which was requested and then sent to the Permitting Division on 5/1/24. Regarding the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) legislation, which the commission expressed concerns about protections for ag lands from BESS, usage on farms, safety and contamination, and the proposed ordinance then deferred until March

2024. There were four questions conveyed to council staff. She then moves on to the Lower Green PEIS, the letter sent out 1/27/22 being about how farms need to be protected from flooding including an APD significant farms to KC goals. The flood control district released a final statement, the next step being the board of supervisors looking into this. She goes over some alternatives for the EIS. In the last meeting, Andrew Ely asked for an advisory letter protocol, the draft under internal review and should be available on the agenda for the July Commission meeting.

See presentation online.

Activating Committees (Stacey Smith, Jessi Bloom)

Jessi asks about when the field trip committee wants to have a meeting and planning the 1-2 field trips. Jessi suggests going to a Blueberry Farm in July, and another field trip could be Leann's farm in October. Jessi suggests having an email chain for this committee to start thinking about dates for the field trips. Stacey then discusses the selection committee, which Jessi decides to join Stacey and Janet on the committee.

Public Comment – General (Stacey Smith)

There was no public comment during this period.

Concerns of Commissioners (Stacey Smith)

Leann Krainick talks about the King County Fair from Thursday-Sunday to support future farmers (this is not a concern).

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm

Next Meeting(s)

July 11, 2024, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Zoom Video Conference Call)

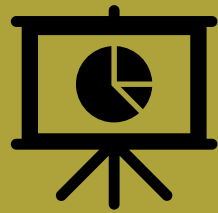
A photograph of a hydroponic lettuce grower. The grower is filled with rows of lettuce plants in various stages of growth. In the foreground, there are rows of bright green, round-leafed lettuce. To the right, there are rows of reddish-purple lettuce. In the background, there are rows of lighter green lettuce. The grower is made of dark-colored channels, and the background is a blurred green field.

Commission Admin, Policy & Legislation, Events & Funding Opportunities

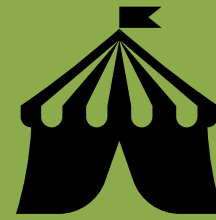
REGARDING KING COUNTY
AGRICULTURE

JULY 2024

This Month's Staff Liaison Update



POLICY UPDATES



EVENTS

Advisory Letter Protocol

- ❑ Continuing to finalize
- ❑ DNRP Leadership has provided input on 1st draft
- ❑ Input will be incorporated into 2nd draft
- ❑ 2nd draft will be reviewed internally
- ❑ Should be ready for Ag Commission's September meeting

King County Council

Tuesday May 14th Meeting

Proposed Substitute Ordinance 2023-0310.2 *passed* and becomes permanently known as *Ordinance 19762*** [sets a minimum wage of \\$20.29](#) in unincorporated King County**

❑ **5 amendments were introduced**

- **1A failed**
- **2-5 passed**

❑ ***The Ordinance was passed as amended***

- **Yes: 7 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Mosqueda, Perry, Upthegrove, and Zahilay**
- **No: 2 - Dunn, and von Reichbauer**

King County Council

Tuesday May 14th Meeting

Ordinance 19762, Amendment 4 (CM PERRY)

A. The executive shall transmit a report providing recommendations to strengthen the county's commitment to sustainable farm-to-plate pipeline, advance equity, and support the agricultural sector in unincorporated King County as the agricultural sector complies with the hourly minimum wage rate as required by this ordinance. The executive shall consult with the community to inform the report.

Ordinance 19762, Amendment 4 (CM PERRY)

A. The community shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Representatives from King County farming organizations which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. King County agriculture commission;**
- b. SnoValley Tilth;**
- c. Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance;**
- d. Sammamish Valley Alliance; and**
- e. Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Cooperative**



See meeting
packet for
complete
contents of
Amendment 4

King County Council Budget and Fiscal Management Committee Wednesday July 10th Meeting

The proposed ordinance (referred to as the 2023-2024 3rd Omnibus, 3rd Omnibus, or Proposed Ordinance 2024-0191), if approved, would increase the total 2023-2024 biennial revised budget 8.1% to approximately \$17.53 billion

Striking Amendment S1

DNRP and GF Transfer to DNRP • **Would add and restrict \$250,000 for DNRP to complete the report required in *Ordinance 19762* that would provide recommendations to strengthen the county's commitment to sustainable farm-to-plate pipeline, advance equity, and support the agricultural sector in unincorporated King County as the agricultural sector complies with the hourly minimum wage rate required by the ordinance.**

LOCAL FOOD news letter



New USDA-inspected meat processing help beef up regional options for local livestock businesses and their customers



- 19 a. Sammamish River;
- 20 b. Snoqualmie River;
- 21 c. Lower Green River;
- 22 d. Upper Green River; and
- 23 e. Enumclaw Plateau;
- 24 3. Representatives from the King Conversation District; and
- 25 4. The chair of the local services and land use committee, or its successor, or
- 26 designee.

27 B. The recommendations to address the impacts shall consider, but not be limited

28 to, the following:

- 29 1. Capital programs to acquire land, access farm equipment, and develop
- 30 housing for farm workers such as:
- 31 a. connecting farmers with affordable farmland to lower acquisition costs and
- 32 build farmland equity through ownership; for example, the Agrarian Trust and more
- 33 specifically the Vermont Agrarian Commons;
- 34 b. establishing a farm equipment access program to provide affordable leasing
- 35 of farm equipment purchased by the county; and
- 36 c. developing housing facilities using county resources to provide workforce,
- 37 congregate, and pallet housing for farm workers in proximity to their place of work;
- 38 2. Transportation programs to provide mobility for farm workers such as:
- 39 a. providing vouchers that can be used for local and regional transportation
- 40 providers operating in areas with access to agricultural jobs;

41 b. establishing shuttles, similar to the Metro transit department's Trailhead
42 Direct; and

43 c. subsidies for easier access to the Metro transit department's Vanpool and
44 Vanshare programs, similar to the Metro transit department services provided to
45 Snoqualamie Casino employees; and

46 3. Other programs to support the agricultural sector in unincorporated King
47 County such as:

48 a. establishing health care programs for farm workers;
49 b. providing fee waivers for farmers market booths;
50 c. supporting farm worker recruitment and retention;
51 d. supporting the retention of existing farm owners;
52 e. developing internship and apprenticeship programs for the youth,
53 underrepresented communities in the agricultural sector, and historically underserved
54 communities in the agricultural sector;

55 f. providing grants to food banks to purchase surplus food from local farms;
56 g. expanding the county's Local Food Initiative; and
57 h. developing a multimedia, multichannel public awareness campaign on the
58 necessity of supporting county farmers and their products and educating the public on the
59 quality and cost of producing farm products.

60 C. The executive shall electronically file the report and any proposed ordinance
61 to implement the recommendations identified in the report no later than June 30, 2025,
62 with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an
63 electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the

64 transportation, economy, and environment committee, or its successor.

65 SECTION 17. This ordinance takes effect January 1, 2025."

66

67 **EFFECT prepared by A. Kim:** *The amendment would make changes to Section 16 to*
68 *require the executive to transmit a report providing recommendations to strengthen the*
69 *county's commitment to sustainable farm-to-plate pipeline, advance equity, and*
70 *support the agricultural sector in unincorporated King County as the agricultural*
71 *sector complies with the hourly minimum wage rate. The amendment would expand*
72 *on the list of community members to inform the report and provide a list of*
73 *considerations for the executive to evaluate in addressing the impacts.*

74

75 *The amendment would also require the report to be transmitted on June 30, 2025*
76 *which in effect would make a technical change to Section 17.*

77

78 *The following shows the amendment's proposed changes to Sections 16 and 17 in red:*

SECTION 16.

~~A. The executive is requested to consult with the community to evaluate the A.~~
The executive shall transmit a report providing recommendations to strengthen the county's commitment to sustainable farm-to-plate pipeline, advance equity, and support the agricultural sector in unincorporated King County as the agricultural sector complies with the hourly minimum wage rate as required by this ordinance~~on the agricultural sector in unincorporated King County.~~
The executive shall consult with the community to inform the report. The community ~~should~~shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Representatives from King County farming organizations which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. King County agriculture commission~~representatives;~~
 - b. SnoValley Tilth;
 - c. Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance;
 - d. Sammamish Valley Alliance; and
 - e. Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Cooperative;
2. ~~Individuals, organizations, or both that represent agricultural sector~~Small-farm owners and small-farm employees in unincorporatedthe following Agricultural Production Districts in King County;~~and;~~
- ~~3. Chair~~
 - a. Sammamish River;
 - b. Snoqualmie River;
 - c. Lower Green River;
 - d. Upper Green River; and

e. Enumclaw Plateau;

3. Representatives from the King Conversation District; and

4. The chair of the local services and land use committee, or its successor, or

designee.

B. The ~~executive should transmit a letter with findings and recommendations, if any;~~ to address ~~any~~the impacts ~~shall consider, but not be limited to, the following:~~

1. Capital programs to acquire land, access farm equipment, and develop housing for farm workers such as:

a. connecting farmers with affordable farmland to lower acquisition costs and build farmland equity through ownership; for example, the Agrarian Trust and more specifically the Vermont Agrarian Commons;

b. establishing a farm equipment access program to provide affordable leasing of farm equipment purchased by the county; and

c. developing housing facilities using county resources to provide workforce, congregate, and pallet housing for farm workers in proximity to their place of work;

2. Transportation programs to provide mobility for farm workers such as:

a. providing vouchers that can be used for local and regional transportation providers operating in areas with access to agricultural jobs;

b. establishing shuttles, similar to the Metro transit department's Trailhead Direct; and

c. subsidies for easier access to the Metro transit department's Vanpool and Vanshare programs, similar to the Metro transit department services provided to Snoqualamie Casino employees; and

3. Other programs to support the agricultural sector in unincorporated King

County such as:

a. establishing health care programs for farm workers;

b. providing fee waivers for farmers market booths;

c. supporting farm worker recruitment and retention;

d. supporting the retention of existing farm owners;

e. developing internship and apprenticeship programs for the youth,

underrepresented communities in the agricultural sector, and historically underserved communities in the agricultural sector;

f. providing grants to food banks to purchase surplus food from local farms;

g. expanding the county's Local Food Initiative; and

h. developing a multimedia, multichannel public awareness campaign on the necessity of supporting county farmers and their products and educating the public on the agricultural sector as a result of this ordinance-quality and cost of producing farm products.

C. The executive shall electronically file ~~any such letter~~the report and any proposed ordinance to implement the recommendations identified in the report no later than ~~September~~June 30, ~~2024~~2025, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the transportation, economy, and environment committee, or its successor.

SECTION 17. ~~Sections 1 through 15 of this~~This ordinance takes effect January 1, 2025.