



King County
Water and Land Resources Division
 Department of Natural Resources and Parks
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King County Agriculture Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Zoom Video Conference Call

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

Meeting Summary

- **Actions: Approval of Agenda; Updates from Patrice Barrentine and Richard Martin; Information on organizing the commission for 2024; Motion passed to have a meeting with Council Member Perry; Information on the Comprehensive Plan Best Available Science**

Meeting called to order by Chair Kevin Scott-Vandenberg at 6:00 pm with quorum

Roll Call/Announcement of Staff & Public (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)

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

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Agenda (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)

Moved by Janet, seconded by Stacey, and passed unanimously.

No new Meeting Minutes were available (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)

Patrice Barrentine, staff liaison, conveyed several sets of minutes are now pending and due the Commission and will work to rectify this as soon as possible.

Public Comment – Specific Agenda Item (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)

No public comment was made at this time.

Updates (Patrice Barrentine, Richard Martin)

Patrice gave updates regarding ag commission emails, the comprehensive plan being sent to council and being based in the local services and Land Use committee, and public meetings and conferences. She also gave updates for Leann regarding the Bureau, in which the Bureau is accepting applications for a scholarship.

Richard gave updates regarding the county’s ag program (more acres added, focusing on connecting private landowners with farmers, piecing together funds to support the farmland access program), looking for a commission member to join a field trip to Horseneck Farm, and the upcoming FFF meeting (going over the ag strategic plan, a flood model of the Snoqualmie Valley).

ACTION/New Business: Organizing the Commission for 2024 (Patrice Barrentine)

With the new members, Patrice goes over the general commission scheduling information. She details a potential field trip around April 11th, mentions when there are no meetings and when there are special meetings. She then goes into the committees within the commission, including organizing field trips (Darron, Kevin, Henna, Jessi), farmland (Jessi, Janet), selecting of new commission members (Janet, Stacey), and policy (Darron, Kevin, Andrew). After organizing the committees, the commission transitions into officer position. The duty of each position is described, including chair, vice chair, and the executive committee.

See presentations online.

Update on Proposed Ordinance 2023-0310 (Patrice Barrentine)

When the advisory letter was sent on January 23rd, two responses from council members came from it. It was suggested to add two sentences giving context about the commission makeup and the legislative advisory capacity of the commission, and to send this letter directly to Councilmember Zahilay. Public Comment regarding the letter will be delivered on February 22nd by Janet.

Councilmember Perry has requested a meeting to understand more details of the commission's letter. A motion was passed by Stacey for Kevin, Leann, Janet, and Henna to attend the meet. It was seconded by Darron Marzolf, and then unanimously agreed on. Patrice will schedule a pre-meeting and offer suggestions.

See presentation online.

Old Business: Comprehensive Plan BAS Critical Area Potential Impacts to Ag Lands (Rick Reinlasoder, Richard Martin)

Rick Reinlasoder presented on the best available science updates on the comprehensive plan critical areas ordinance and proposed changes to the livestock management ordinance. There were recommendations for larger buffers particularly in areas where agriculture was present, as several studies show that water quality in agriculture areas tend to be degraded more than in other less agriculturally affected areas. The county can choose the decision that supports the best available science or if they go a different direction, they must provide a justification as to why and summarize what the impacts or lack of improvement in the environment would be. The current livestock ordinance has a provision that allows the conservation district and King County to work together to approve a buffer setback. However, if this proposal is passed, many properties may not have the resources to get in compliance with it. To inform the public, this information will be transmitted to the council, which will go through an outreach process, determining the types of groups and organizations that should be approached.

See presentation online.

Public Comment – General (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)

There was no public comment during this period.

Concerns of Commissioners (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)

Janet Keller voiced some concerns regarding Carnation Farms applying for additional temporary use permits, and Stacey Smith added on a concern regarding Carnation Farms removing the preserve for elk. Jessi Bloom voiced wanting an update regarding battery storage and proposals, which Patrice mentioned there was no movement with the counsel on those, but movement in the State Legislature.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm

Next Meeting(s)

March 14, 2024, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Zoom Video Conference Call)