

KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2021

6:00-8:00 P.M.

ZOOM VIDEO CALL

CALL IN:

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,96028443898#,,,,*431354#

Land line: +1 253 215 8782, Meeting ID: 960 2844 3898, Passcode: 431354

OR

LOG IN FROM A COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://zoom.us/j/96028443898?pwd=MTh5OUxTTVc0a09oTmgzd3RMRjlFdz09>

MEETING AGENDA

6:00	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll call of commissioners• Announcement of staff and public for the record (please sign in to chat feature)• Approval of Agenda• Approval of January minutes	Nayab Khan, Chair
6:05	Old Business - Updates (approx. 3 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission Details - selection committee, communications plan<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Upcoming events• KC Ag Program• Land Conservtion Initiative• Farm Bureau• King Conservation District• Local Food Initiative• Farm, Fish, Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patrice Barrentine• Richard Martin• Leann Krainick• Leann Krainick• Carrie King• Mike Lufkin• Beth LeDoux
6:25	Public Comment related to a specific agenda item <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Nayab Khan
6:30	Commission 2020 Year in Review and Topics for the year	Patrice Barrentine
6:40	Renew relationship with your Councilmember	Kevin Scott, Vice Chair
6:45	New Business Revising King County's Farmland Lease Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Q&A/Discussion	Melissa Borsting, KC Ag Land Use Coordinator
7:20	Wildlife and Livestock: Steps for Landowners <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation• Q&A• Discussion	Rick Reinlasoder, KC Livestock Program and Tucker Seitz, Wildlife Conflict Specialist, WDFW
7:50	General Public Comment <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Nayab Khan
7:55	Concerns of Commissioners	Nayab Khan
8:00	Adjourn	Nayab Khan

Next Meeting: March 11



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 Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 14, 2021 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Zoom Video Conference Call

Commissioners Present					
Nayab Khan, Chair	N	Lily Gottlieb-McHale	Y	Paul Pink	Y
Kevin Scott-Vanderberge, Vice-Chair	Y	Leann Krainick	Y		
Roger Calhoon	Y	Darron Marzolf	Y		
Ex Officio Members Present					
Fereshteh Dehkordi, DLS	N	Kevin Wright, WSU	Y	Carrie King, KCD	Y
County Staff/Representatives Present					
Saffa Bardaro, DNRP	Richard Martin, DNRP		Jackie White, KCC (Lambert)		
Patrice Barrentine, DNRP	Megan Moore, DNRP				
Mike Lufkin, DNRP	Ted Sullivan, DNRP				
Guests Present					
Liz Clark, King Conservation District	Nicole Gutierrez, WA Water Trust		Janet - last name unknown		
Dave Glenn, Sno Valley Tilth	Jason Hatch, WA Water Trust				

Action Summary

- **Actions: Approvals of Agenda, November & December 2020 Meeting Minutes**
- **Old Business: Commission, County, and Organization Updates**
- **New Business: Recycled Water Farm Trial, Farmer Education, and Consumer Research; Social Media Promotions of King County Agriculture**

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Kevin Scott-Vanderberge at 6:04 pm

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

Roll call of Commissioners and announcement of staff and public guests was done via the Zoom chat function.

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

Leann Krainick motioned to approve today’s meeting agenda as-is. Darron Marzolf seconded the motion, which carried with unanimous approval.

ACTION: Approvals of November & December 2020 Meeting Minutes (Kevin Scott-Vanderberge)

Leann Krainick motioned to approve the November and December 2020 meeting minutes as-is. Darron Marzolf seconded the motion, which carried with unanimous approval. Ms. Krainick asked the Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) letter referenced in the minutes to be included in February’s meeting packet.

Old Business – Updates

- **Commission Details (Patrice Barrentine):**
 - SCAP Letter and Response: The SCAP letter approved by the Commission at its December 2020 meeting was transmitted to King County Council (KCC) in early January. Councilmember Claudia Balducci thanked the Commission, stating she was looking forward to working with them and their input is essential. DNRP Director Christie True expressed interest in the food waste/feed issue. She copied the letter to the director of DNRP’s Solid Waste Division, who is willing to connect or answer questions on this matter.

- Selection Committee: This committee is re-forming, and planning to interview Commission applicants in February. Nayab Khan and Kevin Scott-Vanderberge have agreed to serve, but one Commissioner-at-large is sought. The process has been delayed by COVID-19, but all applicants have now been contacted. Anyone interested in serving is asked to contact Ms. Barrentine.
- Upcoming Events:
 - A full meeting of KCC is next week. On the agenda are referral of two motions: the Conservation Futures committee and tax levy proceeds, and the SCAP going to the Mobility and Environment committee.
 - The WA state legislature began its regular session Monday, for the first time in a virtual format.
 - Two days ago, Darron Marzolf and his business appeared on the program “Washington Grown,” available on YouTube. Leann Krainick and Ms. Barrentine encouraged anyone with story ideas to reach out to Ms. Barrentine to put them in touch with program staff.
 - Conferences: Country Living Cattlemen’s Winter School is \$55 to register for up to 12 classes. WSU is holding a free one-week soil conference with short sessions available. The WA State Farmers Market Association (WSFMA) conference is February 23-26, to be held virtually; there is a registration fee.
 - Food Business Week’s list of workshops, including a virtual tradeshow, are forthcoming.
 - COVID-19 vaccines open in February for essential workers age 50+ (known as Phase 1B2). Eligible individuals can sign up online through WSDH’s PhaseFinder.
- **King County Agriculture Program (Richard Martin):**
 - A Fish Farm Flood (FFF) update is expected at a forthcoming Commission meeting.
 - Regulatory and Permitting Specialist Eric Beach is wrapping up the FFF regulatory task force’s body of work, addressing many regulatory questions on farming in the Snoqualmie Valley. His focus has turned to two Valley drainage projects, Cherry Creek and Griffin Creek. This is part of a search for project opportunities to benefit agriculture and salmon recovery, while doing creative in-stream work. These will provide insight into perhaps working in more challenging streams.
 - Next month, Melissa Borsting will present to the Commission on the County’s updated vision for the Farmland Leasing Program. Input will be sought on: what the County is doing, how they’re doing it, what to improve, and how value can be added to the agriculture landscape. The Kent area is seen as a potential location where the County can help disadvantaged farmers.
 - In March, Ted Sullivan will brief the Commission on the past year’s accomplishments and the coming year’s goals for the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), and seek Commission input on the program. FPP is well on its way to meeting its goals for this year.
- **CARES Funding for Agriculture (Patrice Barrentine, Mike Lufkin, Richard Martin):**

County staff reviewed the CARES program, through which KCC allotted \$1.3M in federal funds to support aspects of the King County agricultural landscape affected by COVID-19 in 2020:

 - Farm Businesses: County staff originally expected over \$1M in losses, but only 23 businesses applied and qualified for funding, with about \$100K in funding allocated. Assessment is underway to understand the lower-than-expected participation rate and how the process can be more accessible in the future.
 - Farmers Markets: 31 of 40 county markets applied and qualified for reimbursement, up to \$15K each for open markets and \$10K each for closed markets. Roughly \$397K was awarded of \$410K budgeted for this component. A report is coming based on gathered data on how markets will utilize the funds in the future.
 - Farm-to-Food Bank, Farm-to-Senior Center: Harvest Against Hunger was contracted to implement the reimbursement process. The entire \$300K budget was spent, 80% going directly to King County farmers and 20% to administrative costs. KCD and PCC Community Markets contributed as well, resulting in \$500K total awarded to producers. This funding is expected be leveraged to continue efforts into 2021.
 - E-Commerce: Business Impact Northwest (BINW), a non-profit community development financial institution in Seattle, was contracted to implement this component. 22 farmers out of a hoped-for 40 participated, who also received a year’s subscription to the e-commerce platform of their choice. BINW recorded sessions for those unable to participate. Of note was a translation/recording of the program into the Hmong language.
- **Farm Bureau (Leann Krainick):**
 - Tom Vilsack has been nominated by President-Elect Biden as Secretary of Agriculture, which he also served as under President Obama. Under the Trump administration, he worked for the US Dairy Export Council.
 - Round two of PPP sign-ups is happening now, and will have application deadlines.
 - Kim Schrier, Representative for US House District 8 (Pierce, Kittitas, and Chelan counties), has two agriculture-related bills in process. One would implement the Farm to Food Box program, which purchases American-grown food from farmers to distribute in boxes nationwide to those in need. She has introduced a bill to curb methane in livestock; American dairy farmers have a mandate to be carbon-neutral by 2050.

Representative Schrier is meeting with a group including Darigold to discuss attainable goals for reaching this. Maria Beltran, a legislative aide to Schrier, has expressed wishes to hear concerns from the Commission.

- The state legislative session that began this week is already tackling several issues.
 - A capital gains (income) tax; Farm Bureau opposes this as they see the state budget as already adequate.
 - Three bills - with more likely - address a carbon tax, which would raise fuel taxes significantly.
 - SB 5061 addresses unemployment insurance and would require all unemployment paid during COVID-19 to be paid back through the program.
 - The state Supreme Court is undecided on if dairy employees can demand up to three years of retroactive overtime wages. A Senate bill from Curtis King would ban retroactive pay, so employees of law-abiding employers could not request back pay to a time before the overtime law existed. 18 dairies in eastern WA have already been served papers by current and past staff for three years of back pay.
 - Ms. Krainick stressed the importance of testifying in legislative sessions, noting that Farm Bureau offers classes on this.
- **Land Conservation Initiative (Leann Krainick):** Representative Wiley of Clark County is sponsoring a bill to propose levy increase caps be determined by voters at the county level. Due to delays involving COVID-19, the bill may not be submitted until 2022. The proposed increase is currently just for conservation lands, but many changes are expected before submission.
- **King Conservation District (Carrie King, Liz Clark):**
 - Liz Stockton has been chosen for the agriculture drainage coordinator position. Field season is being planned with the Snoqualmie Watershed Improvement District (WID). Anyone aware of areas or landowners with dredging or flooding problems should be referred to KCD.
 - The director of stewardship position vacated by Josh Monaghan is open for recruitment until January 19.
 - KCD's Board of Supervisors passed a resolution for this year's election, to be posted on the KCD website.
 - A few species are still available at KCD's native plants sale.
 - Ms. Clark and Ms. Stockton have been attending District 5 drainage district meetings, and ask anyone with contact information for other districts' Commissioners to send it to them.
- **Local Food Initiative (Mike Lufkin):**
 - Regional Food System Grant Program: This KCD program once awarded wholly through a competitive grant process but now splits that money with half going to strategic initiative programs. Mr. Lufkin is working with KCD to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for business support for the farm community. This involves identifying an organization or organizations to support all types of businesses. The RFP is expected to go out next week, and someone contracted in the next two months. This morning KCD's advisory team gave final approval of proposals for the competitive grants program. The limit for awards this year was \$20K, with 16 recommended proposals going to KCD's supervisors board for approval.
 - Food System Infrastructure Project: Mr. Lufkin and a team have been studying issues surrounding need for food system infrastructure in the region, such as for co-packing and cold storage. Thanks to KCD, King County DNRP's Solid Waste Division, and others, a consultant was hired to develop a conceptual facility to address these needs. Their final product has been shared since October, with two groups discussing how to develop the infrastructure and needs such as permitting and costs/finance. The SODO area of Seattle is being looked at for a possible space. Several farm/food organizations are interested in operating out of such a facility. Mr. Lufkin should have more information to present at next Commission meeting.

Public Comment – Related to Specific Agenda Item

There was no public comment given during this period.

Commission 2020 Year in Review & Topics for the Year

This item was deferred until February's meeting due to time constraints.

Renew Relationship with your Councilmember

This item was deferred until February's meeting due to time constraints.

New Business: Recycled Water Farm Trial, Farmer Education, & Consumer Research (Nicole Gutierrez & Jason Hatch, Washington Water Trust)

Washington Water Trust (WWT) is a non-profit focused on streamflow restoration throughout the state. Projects are based on voluntary cooperation, often with agriculture. Much of their work involves water acquisition. Working with conservation districts and agricultural water users, WWT has developed a water rights trust program managed by the Department of Ecology. Water banking, conservation leases, and purchases work well east of the Cascades, but west of

the Cascades additional tools are sought to work with agricultural water users, including recycled water. The strategy is to find a viable water source outside of ground or surface water.

Partnering with King County, WSU Extension, and others, WWT’s study in the Sammamish Valley seeks to answer questions on impacts of recycled water vs. existing water sources on soil, produce, and water quality, and concerns of producers and consumers. Theoretically, low season flows on the Sammamish River could be restored by up to 15% if Valley users can be convinced to use recycled water. The river supports salmon, recreation, and irrigators, but late season water quality is an issue with high temperatures and the river becoming highly channelized. There is growing demand for water rights, with many farmers wanting to establish there.

The study/project has three major objectives:

- Evaluate perceptions and concerns along the food supply chain, including producers, grocers, and restaurants. A standard questionnaire has been used to interview 13 producers so far. Consumers are being contacted via CSA customer lists and participating farm stands. WWT seeks more ideas on how to reach consumers regionally. Many Valley farmers are already open to recycled water as a sustainable water source.
- Conduct basin research study to change perception of recycled water use on crops. The study, the Recycled Water Research Garden, was developed with several partners and looks at recycled water safety. A University of Washington consultant was brought in to analyze and report on “compounds of emerging concern” (CECs) in the water such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products. Several boxes of carefully chosen crops were irrigated via drip lines with recycled or river water, and tested in multiple stages: baseline soil, and CECs and other compounds. Soil and plant tissue were tested. Recycled water did produce a higher crop yield, perhaps due to its higher nitrogen and phosphate levels.
- Create a more resilient water supply, with more water in-stream in the river.

2021 will see continued outreach on the food supply chain, the sharing of Year 1 results, and conducting Year 2 of research study. A hosted discussion may occur, as well as replication of the 2020 study.

Follow-up discussion raised several questions and concerns:

- Roger Calhoun agreed Valley producers of non-edible crops in particular are open to discussing recycled water use, and integrating it into the water supply would relieve stressed rivers and aquifers. Marketing is a hurdle, with a concern if buyers will stick with a producer who uses recycled water. Pricing and infrastructure are also concerns; if more must be paid to haul/pump water in, it won’t work for many small farms. He added this all should be a community effort, not just farmers. Mr. Hatch said WWT starts with producers, who connect them to consumers, who are presented with the sustainable/salmon-friendly aspects of recycled water use. King County would also help with a feasibility study to develop needed infrastructure.
- Testing for bacteria such as E Coli and salmonella is already part of the permitting requirements for water recycling facilities for Class A-type recycled water.
- The importance of educating public perception to distinguish between raw sewage and treated wastewater, which is potable (not drinkable) and arguably cleaner than the Sammamish River. Mr. Hatch said each year 10 million gallons of treated wastewater are sent back into Puget Sound, which they would like to see repurposed instead.
- It was suggested the Local Food Initiative (LFI) newsletter have a story on the study and the recycled water issue.

New Business: Social Media Promotion of King County Agriculture (Saffa Bardaro, DNRP-WLRD Communications Manager)

Ms. Bardaro said there has been an interest expressed in developing a communications plan for the Commission, and explained what this would entail.

This fell under several broad categories:

- **Increasing Visibility:** This involves identifying gaps in awareness, like misinformation and how to target it – where people get information and how information can be shared. What the Commission wants people to know should be identified: available resources, regulations/requirements, feedback/engagement opportunities, etc.
- **Amplify Stories by Messaging:** Stories/news should be shared among partners. This can be done by newsletter, websites/social media, tours, or involvement in community events. She stressed the importance of maintaining and updating these messaging platforms, as a lack of such action can undermine credibility. When creating a website, the following should be considered: how to use it, if it is to be an information resource; ensuring the website is optimized for your goal; how to notify its audience when it’s updated. She noted the Agriculture Commission’s website has a “friendly” short URL/web address: <http://kingcounty.gov/AgComm>

- **Platforms:** DNRP-WLRD has many available communication platforms – news releases, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blogs for DNRP and WLRD); email listservs for hundreds of topics; and an online engagement hub. The engagement hub is a platform for surveys, polls, digital open houses, and hosting meetings.

Ms. Bardaro explained that if the Commission has content of their own or from partners to amplify, it goes through an approval channel: through the Commission liaison (Patrice Barrentine) to the WLRD Communications Manager (Ms. Bardaro), to DNRP Public Affairs, before being shared via existing King County/DNRP-WLRD platforms.

She suggested what actions the Commission might take next: develop a social media “toolkit,” targeted for a specific platform, and create a communications plan pitch. This plan should define communication goals and how to achieve them, who to reach and how to reach them, and who will implement (write/put into action) the plan. An editorial or event calendar should be created, a living document to plan what to communicate about, updated through the year.

Mike Lufkin noted the ongoing LFI newsletter, with over 3,200 subscribers, would be glad to share stories about the Commission. Ms. Barrentine encouraged revisiting this issue, saying she is willing to work with Ms. Bardaro and Mr. Lufkin to develop a proposal to improve the Commission’s message, and bring it back to the Commission for review. The Commission gave a consensus of approval to this idea. Liz Clark of KCD agreed any Commission info should be highlighted in the LFI newsletter, and can be reshared in KCD’s newsletter as well.

Public Comment – General

There was no public comment given during this period.

Concerns of Commissioners (Kevin Scott-Vanderberge)

No comment was given during this period.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

Next Meeting

February 11, 2021, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Zoom Video Conference Call)



King County
Agriculture Commission
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

December 10, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
516 Third Ave, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

The King County Agriculture Commission is concerned about climate change impacts on farming and food businesses including flooding, increased demand for irrigation water, and the challenge of producing food while facing new pathogens, pests and diseases in this region.

The commission supports elements in the 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) including accelerating acquisitions of farmland preservation program easements, assessing impacts of climate change on King County agriculture, updating the vulnerable roads assessment, expanding use of recycled water, increasing home elevations, flood risk outreach, and participation in disaster relief programs. The commission also supports adopting comprehensive planning for County owned farmland and incorporating regenerative farming practices, increasing PBRs enrollment, supporting immigrant and refugee farming program, exploring benefits of compost, and amending the farm plan public rule to include climate resiliency and preparedness.

While farmers would like to adopt many of these strategies to address climate change, the commission stresses that financial incentives are needed to make that happen. In technology research and development, alternatives to diesel or clean diesel technology is needed for farming and distribution. Resources are needed to fund technical assistance and cost-share programming so that farm and food businesses have the knowledge and financial incentives to adopt SCAP strategic actions. The SCAP plan documented a wide range of public understanding about the impacts of climate change to farmers and the importance of a “climate friendly” agricultural practices. The Commission has long been an advocate for public education regarding agriculture and climate change and this, too, will require resources.

Although not explicitly included in the SCAP update, the Commission encourages the County to further implement strategies that incorporate FDA approved food processing waste into livestock feed. King County leads the state in food processing and there is significant opportunity to re-route landfill waste to livestock operations. The Commission supports the Local Food Initiative and encourages a key link between SCAP to local food consumption and production.

We appreciate the County’s leadership to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and positioning

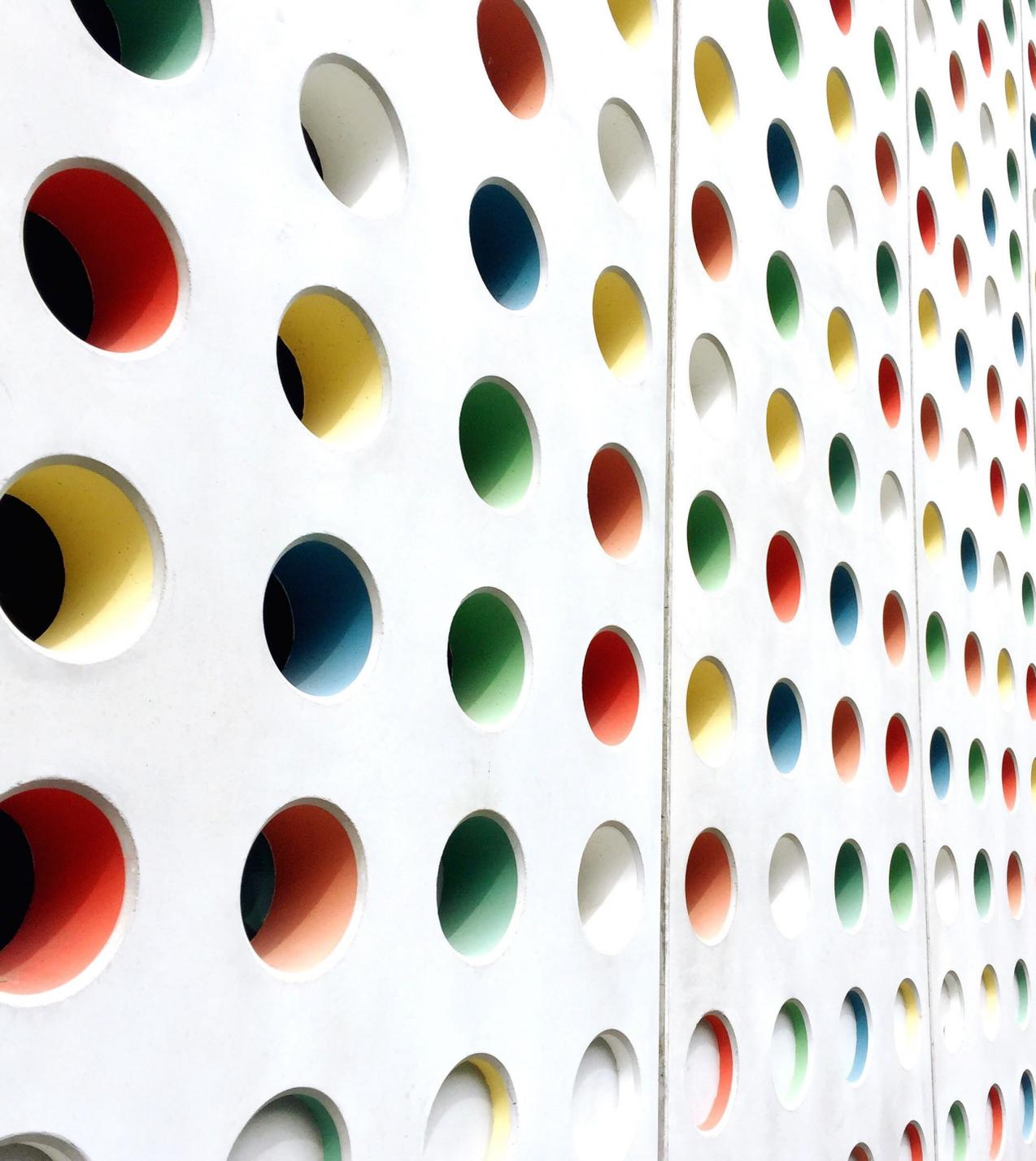
landowners to be able to adapt to a changing climate. The Agriculture Commission looks forward to working with staff to fully develop and implement ag-related strategies included in the SCAP, including pursuit of funding options to assist with implementation. We recognize that this plan is only the next step in a steady progression toward a more resilient future and the Agriculture Commission will contribute to future revisions as the science develops and the needs of farmers become more apparent.

Sincerely,



Nayab Khan, Chair
King County Agriculture Commission

cc: Dow Constantine, County Executive, King County
King County Councilmembers
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Mo McBroom, Deputy Director, DNRP
John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD),
DNRP
Pat McLaughlin, Division Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP
Katherine Taylor, Government Relations, DNRP
Richard Martin, Manager, AFI, WLRD, DNRP
Patrice Barrentine, Staff Liaison, Agriculture Commission, WLRD, DNRP



Meetings, Conferences, Events and Key Dates

REGARDING KING COUNTY
AGRICULTURE

JANUARY 2021



Coming Up



Food Events



Farm Events



Public Meetings

Meetings, Conferences, Events and Key Dates

King County Events and Public Meetings

- <https://www.kingcounty.gov/about/news/events.aspx>
- Presidents Day Feb 15th
- Council Meetings every Tuesday, 1pm
- Mobility and Environment Committee meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 9:30am
 - [Proposed Motion No. 2021-0047](#) A MOTION providing direction to the *conservation futures advisory committee on priorities for allocating conservation futures tax levy proceeds*. Was passed unanimously by the Mobility and Environment Committee on January 27th
 - [Proposed Motion No. 2020-0288](#) A MOTION relating to the *2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan*, was deferred by the Mobility and Environment Committee at their January 27 Meeting

Updating King County Building Codes

increase the permit
exempt building size
to 400 ft for
Ag/forestry

The King County Department of Local Services, Permitting Division, is offering public review and comment on the following draft of a proposed ordinance on King County building codes, amending Title 16 Building and Construction Standards, and Title 17 Fire codes for unincorporated King County.

Public comments on this draft proposed ordinance will be accepted through **Sunday, March 7, 2021** and may be submitted via email, US Mail, or phone/voicemail (see How to comment, below). *Note: Any public comments received are public records and are subject to public disclosure.*

Documents for review

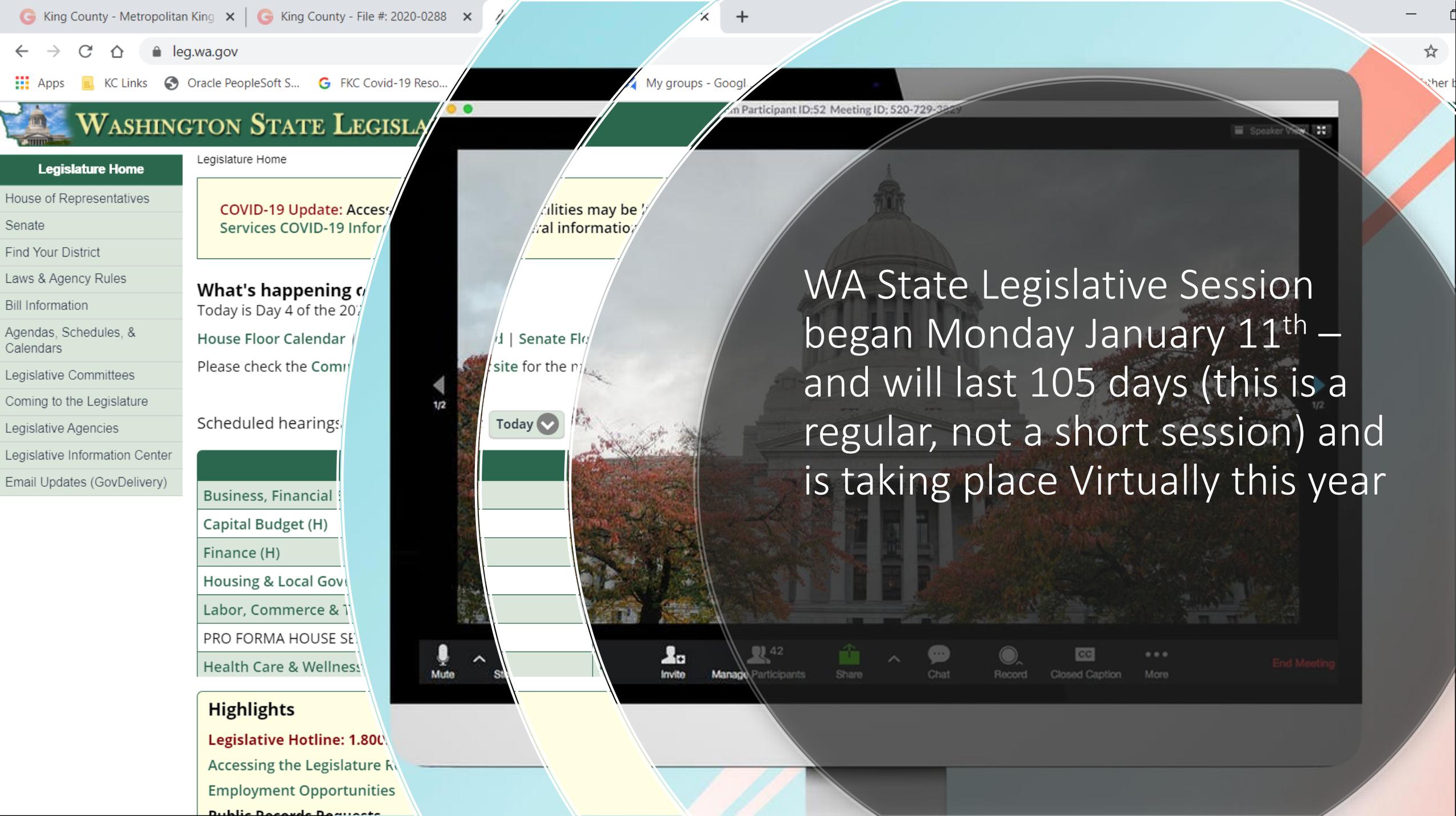
- [Draft Proposed Ordinance](#) PDF
- [Plain-language summary](#) PDF
- [Public Notice of Intent to Amend](#) PDF

How to comment

- **Email:** permittinglegislation@kingcounty.gov
- **US Mail:**
Nicole Sanders
King County Permitting Division
35030 SE Douglas Street, Suite 210
Snoqualmie, WA 98065-9266
- **Phone/voicemail:** 206-263-3000

What happens next

- After the draft is finalized, it will be introduced by the King County Council in May 2021 for review and possible adoption.



WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

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- Legislative Committees
- Coming to the Legislature
- Legislative Agencies
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- Email Updates (GovDelivery)

Legislature Home

COVID-19 Update: Access Services COVID-19 Information

What's happening

Today is Day 4 of the 2020

House Floor Calendar

Please check the Comm

Scheduled hearings

- Business, Financial & Technology
- Capital Budget (H)
- Finance (H)
- Housing & Local Government
- Labor, Commerce & Trade
- PRO FORMA HOUSE SESSION
- Health Care & Wellness

Highlights

Legislative Hotline: 1.800.533.8288

Accessing the Legislature Resources

Employment Opportunities

Public Records Requests

Participant ID: 52 Meeting ID: 520-729-3829

Speaker View

1/2

Today

Mute Stop Invite Manage Participants 42 Share Chat Record Closed Caption More End Meeting

WA State Legislative Session began Monday January 11th – and will last 105 days (this is a regular, not a short session) and is taking place Virtually this year

Important legislative cut-off dates:



Feb 15 – Final day for bills in committee.



Feb 22 – Final day for budget bills in committee.



March 9 – Final day to consider bills in houses of origin.



March 26 – Final day for bills from opposite chamber in committee.



April 2 – Final day for fiscal bills from opposite chamber in committee.



April 11 – Final day to consider bill from opposite chamber.



April 25 – Last day of session.

Bills of interest
so far:

HB 1102 Establishing
intrastate meat
inspection program.

SB 5045 Establishing a
state meat and poultry
inspection program.

SB 5045 An act relating to establishing a state meat and poultry inspection program <http://search.leg.wa.gov/search.aspx#results>

Senate Committee :Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks, January 21, 2021

1st substitute bill: Expanding opportunities for meat and poultry processing and inspection.]

Brief Summary of First Substitute Bill

- Establishes a state meat and poultry inspection program **only if** the Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has full federal approval for the program.
- Sets inspection requirements under the meat and poultry inspection program.
- Allows WSDA to enter into a cooperative interstate shipping program agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture.
- **Summary of Bill (First Substitute): The Meat and Poultry Processing and Marketing Assistance Program is created to assist small and mid-size farms and small and mid-size processors in exploring options to expand capacity for processing meat or meat and poultry for sale and direct marketing efforts. In carrying out this duty, the program must: assist farms in complying with federal, state, and local rules and regulations as they apply to direct marketing of meat and poultry products;**

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill: *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.*

- **PRO:** The pandemic impacted food distribution streams and this bill will provide more access for consumers to obtain protein and also provide a good outlet for producers. This bill will change the way that a small farmer can provide their product to the public and send the product to market. Farmers have to travel several hours to have their beef processed and mobile slaughter facilities will help farmers provide a better product. Consumers want to buy individual packages from their local farmers. This bill will give producers the opportunity to set prices for their product and sell their product on an individualized basis through direct marketing. Bringing a good, safe state inspection program will greatly increase Washington's food security. This bill will provide more outlets for producers to get their meat processed and will provide more sources and opportunities for consumers to access locally grown and inspected protein for their families. A state-based inspection program will create another option for farmers to process their meat, which ensures that their animals are being processed on time.

- **Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Judy Warnick, Prime Sponsor; James McPhee, McPhee Family Farms; Molly Linville, citizen; **Caleb Gwerder, Washington Farm Bureau**; Beau Henneman, Stevens County Cattlemens Association; Mark Streuli, Washington Cattlemens Association.

CON: For many small-scale operations, the USDA system is too cumbersome and time consuming. Creating a WSDA system will do little to resolve those issues. Custom exempt processors would have to upgrade their facilities to meet the federal requirements under a state program, not currently feasible for most processors. There are not enough processors to meet demand—they are aging out and their equipment is outdated, and this bill does not address this problem. There needs to be training programs and financial and educational help for processors who want to improve their facilities to meet USDA standards.

- **Persons Testifying** CON: Kevin Svik, Peninsula Harvest Mobile Slaughter; **Micha Ide, Bright Ide Acres.**

OTHER: This bill will establish a state program equivalent to USDA's inspection program, with a 50 percent federal match once the program is approved, which will take about two years. The bill recognizes that access to meat processing is a critical barrier to the success and growth of farms in the state. Small meat processors have been operating in aging buildings, without funding to invest in new meat cutting equipment, while also struggling to find and keep skilled staff. ***The way to help farmers is to increase access to and capacity of small processors by providing grants for upgraded equipment and infrastructure needs, as well as business and technical assistance, and subsidizing on-the-job training programs.***

SB 5045: Now in Senate Ways and Means committee

Bill History: 2021 REGULAR SESSION

- Dec 30: Prefiled for introduction.
- Jan 11: First reading, referred to Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks. ([View Original Bill](#))
- Jan 14: Public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks at 1:30 PM. ([Committee Materials](#))
- Jan 21: Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks at 1:30 PM. ([Committee Materials](#))
- **AWNPN - Majority; 1st substitute bill be substituted, do pass.** ([View 1st Substitute](#)) ([Majority Report](#)) And refer to Ways & Means.
- Jan 22: Referred to Ways & Means.
- Feb 8: Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means at 4:00 PM (Subject to change). ([Committee Materials](#))

How a Bill Becomes a Law



SOILCON



WASHINGTON SOIL HEALTH WEEK
FEB 8-12, 2021

Sessions from 9:30-11:00 AM and 1:00-2:30 PM (PST) each day.

These topics will be relevant to producers, consultants, agricultural professionals, University faculty and students, policy makers, conservation districts, and interested members of the general public.

FREE

For more info: <https://soilhealth.wsu.edu/soilcon-washington-soil-health-week>

WA State Farmers Market Association Conference

- February 23 – 26,
2021: Farmers Market
Conference
- 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
each day.

<http://wafarmersmarkets.org/2021-wsfma-conference/>



FOOD BIZ WEEK

- **What is Food Biz Week?**
- A free opportunity for food and farm businesses at all levels of food production and food retail in the Pacific Northwest to learn from industry experts and fellow experienced colleagues through a curated week of virtual panels, presentations, and networking activities. The event will be all virtual and free so food and farm entrepreneurs are invited to attend from **anywhere in the region**.
- This year Business Impact NW partnered with the [Seattle Good Business Network](#) and [Sustainable Connections](#) to host Food Biz Week.
- When you register for Food Biz Week you are given access to Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday's events, please indicate below one or all of the sessions you would like to attend.
- On Tuesday, February 23rd of Food Biz Week, our partners Sustainable Connections and the Seattle Good Business Network are hosting the [Farm-To-Table Trade Meeting](#) - a half-day virtual event that invites folks working in the food and farm community to connect, create and strengthen market partnerships, and learn from each other about programs and solutions to support the needs of your business and organization in 2021. This is a paid event run by our event partners [Sustainable Connections](#) and the [Seattle Good Business Network](#). Learn more about the Farm-To-Table Trade Meeting and register [here](#).
- Preview of Daily Events:
- **Monday February 22nd** – *Farm Businesses*
- **Tuesday February 23rd** – *Farm-to-Table Trade Meeting ([register here](#))*
- **Wednesday February 24th** – *Packaged Food/Value-Add Businesses*
- **Thursday February 25th** – *Financing for Food & Farm*
- **Friday February 26th** – *Foodservice Businesses*

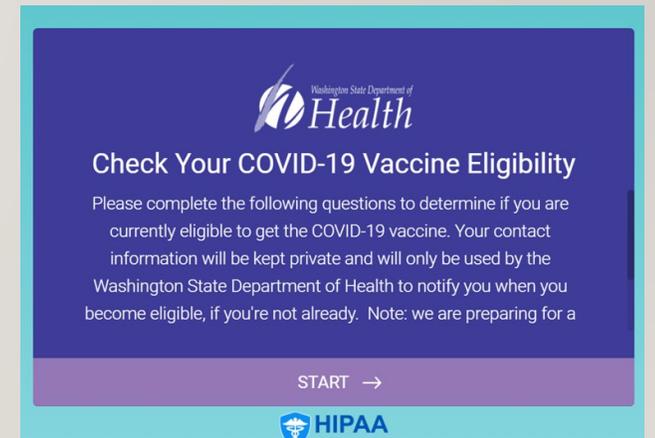
COVID VACCINATIONS FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING, GROCERY RETAIL

Washington State DOH is using the [Phase Finder](#) tool, an online self-assessment to help people find out if they are eligible for vaccination under current or past phases.

Phase Finder also provides:

- confirmation of eligibility that can be shown at a vaccination site
- a link to a list of available sites for vaccination.



The screenshot shows the Washington State Department of Health's Phase Finder tool. At the top, the Washington State Department of Health logo is displayed. Below the logo, the title "Check Your COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility" is shown. The main text reads: "Please complete the following questions to determine if you are currently eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Your contact information will be kept private and will only be used by the Washington State Department of Health to notify you when you become eligible, if you're not already. Note: we are preparing for a". At the bottom of the main text area, there is a "START →" button. Below the button, the HIPAA logo is visible.



Commission 2020 Year in Review and Topics for 2021

KING COUNTY AG COMMISSION

JANUARY, 2021

2020: What a year!



2020 Ag Commission in Review

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Farm Fish Flood Progress Review and Feedback, Regulatory and Permitting program review	Virtual Meetings begin	Covid Response: Agriculture Biz Impacts, KC CARES Act relief funding for farms, farmers markets, and food banks	10.29.20 Letter to Council re: Budget items of appreciation and concern
Commissioner Recognition of Service, WA State Legislature Agriculture Bills – WSFB	4.9.20 Letter to Executive and Council in Support of Farmers Markets being open during Covid	9.10.20 Letter to Executive Broadband in Snoq Grant proposal letter of support	12.10.20 Letter to Council re: Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP)
Meeting cancelled due to Covid outbreak	Covid Response: Co-host of County-wide Farmer Call, Farm King County website and team activation	WSFB covid resources, Local Food Finder Map, Webpages updated with meeting info, photo refresh, Tourism and Promotion Discussion	Election of Officers for 2021

Ag Commission Planning for 2021

Q1

Recycled Water Project in
Sammamish APD
KC DNRP and Commission
re: Social Media and Ag in KC

Q2

Farm Fish Flood Update and
Feedback

Q3

Q4

Selection Committee, KC
Lease Program; Wildlife
and Livestock, WDFW,
Livestock Program Review

Land: Farm Real Estate and
Covid, FPP Program Update,
County Assessor Current Use
Program



Renew relationship with your Councilmember

Kevin Scott, Vice Chair

King County Councilmembers



King County Councilmembers (from left): Council Vice Chair **Joe McDermott** (District 8), **Kathy Lambert** (District 3), **Girmay Zahilay** (District 2), Council Chair **Claudia Balducci** (District 6), **Dave Upthegrove** (District 5), **Jeanne Kohl-Welles** (District 4), Council Vice Chair **Reagan Dunn** (District 9), **Pete von Reichbauer** (District 7), and **Rod Dembowski** (District 1).

Commissioners by District 2021

02

KEVIN SCOTT-
VANDERBERGE



**Connect with
Councilmember
Girmay Zahilay**

03

NAYAB KHAN
DARRON MARZOLF
ROGER CALHOON



**Connect with
Councilmember
Kathy Lambert**

09

LILY GOTTLIEB-MCHALE
LEANN KRAINICK
PAUL PINK



**Connect with
Councilmember
Reagan Dunn**



King County
Agriculture Commission
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

December 10, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
516 Third Ave, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

The King County Agriculture Commission is concerned about climate change impacts on farming and food businesses including flooding, increased demand for irrigation water, and the challenge of producing food while facing new pathogens, pests and diseases in this region.

The commission supports elements in the 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) including accelerating acquisitions of farmland preservation program easements, assessing impacts of climate change on King County agriculture, updating the vulnerable roads assessment, expanding use of recycled water, increasing home elevations, flood risk outreach, and participation in disaster relief programs. The commission also supports adopting comprehensive planning for County owned farmland and incorporating regenerative farming practices, increasing PBRs enrollment, supporting immigrant and refugee farming program, exploring benefits of compost, and amending the farm plan public rule to include climate resiliency and preparedness.

While farmers would like to adopt many of these strategies to address climate change, the commission stresses that financial incentives are needed to make that happen. In technology research and development, alternatives to diesel or clean diesel technology is needed for farming and distribution. Resources are needed to fund technical assistance and cost-share programming so that farm and food businesses have the knowledge and financial incentives to adopt SCAP strategic actions. The SCAP plan documented a wide range of public understanding about the impacts of climate change to farmers and the importance of a “climate friendly” agricultural practices. The Commission has long been an advocate for public education regarding agriculture and climate change and this, too, will require resources.

Although not explicitly included in the SCAP update, the Commission encourages the County to further implement strategies that incorporate FDA approved food processing waste into livestock feed. King County leads the state in food processing and there is significant opportunity to re-route landfill waste to livestock operations. The Commission supports the Local Food Initiative and encourages a key link between SCAP to local food consumption and production.

We appreciate the County’s leadership to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and positioning

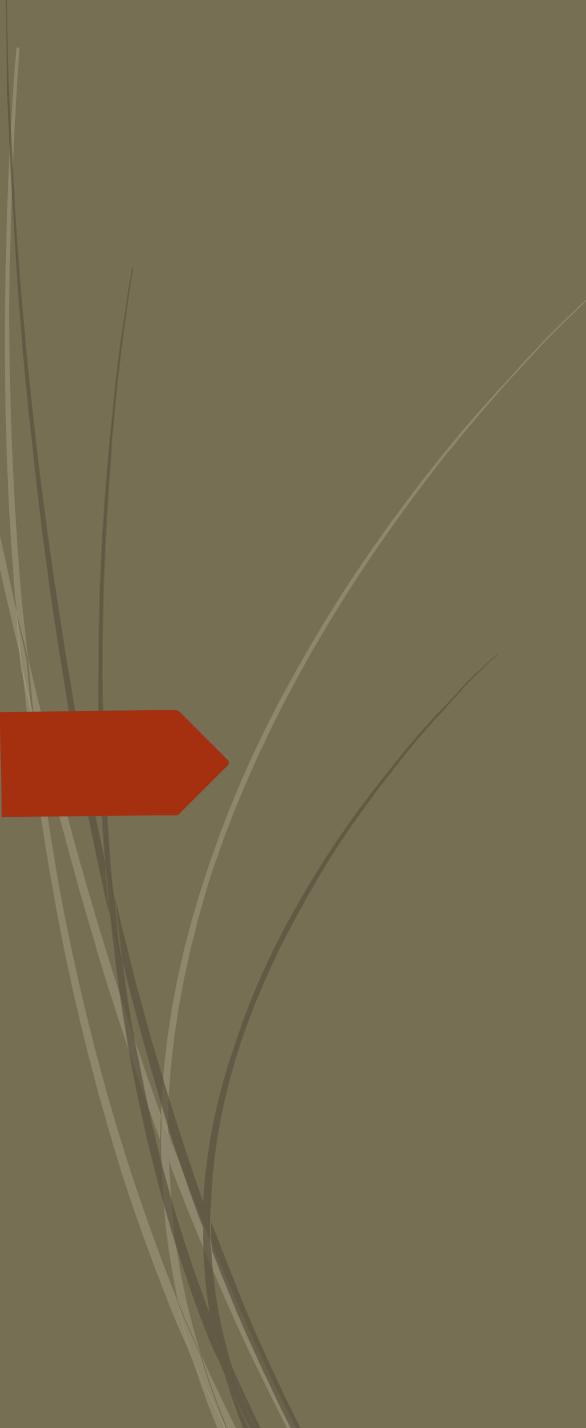
landowners to be able to adapt to a changing climate. The Agriculture Commission looks forward to working with staff to fully develop and implement ag-related strategies included in the SCAP, including pursuit of funding options to assist with implementation. We recognize that this plan is only the next step in a steady progression toward a more resilient future and the Agriculture Commission will contribute to future revisions as the science develops and the needs of farmers become more apparent.

Sincerely,



Nayab Khan, Chair
King County Agriculture Commission

cc: Dow Constantine, County Executive, King County
King County Councilmembers
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Mo McBroom, Deputy Director, DNRP
John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD),
DNRP
Pat McLaughlin, Division Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP
Katherine Taylor, Government Relations, DNRP
Richard Martin, Manager, AFI, WLRD, DNRP
Patrice Barrentine, Staff Liaison, Agriculture Commission, WLRD, DNRP



King County Farm Lease Program

Melissa Borsting, AFI

A presentation to the King County Ag Commission, February 2021

History of KC Farm Lease Program

- 1982 Sammamish Farm became home of Indochinese Farm Project
- 1984: Horseneck Farm
- 2000: Green River Farm
- 2001: Mt. Peak properties
- 2015: Begin re-envisioning program
 - Including guidance from Ag Commission
- 2019-2022: Dedicated Farm Manager & I/R liaison
- 2019: Beyers and Bonomi Farms





Elements of the Program Vision

*In alignment with
King County LFI, ESJ,
SCAP, and Agriculture
Program Priorities*

- Farmland access in a region where land is expensive and limited
- Infrastructure to support farm business development and expansion
- Serve Socially Disadvantaged & New and Beginning Farmers

King County Farmland Portfolio: 2021



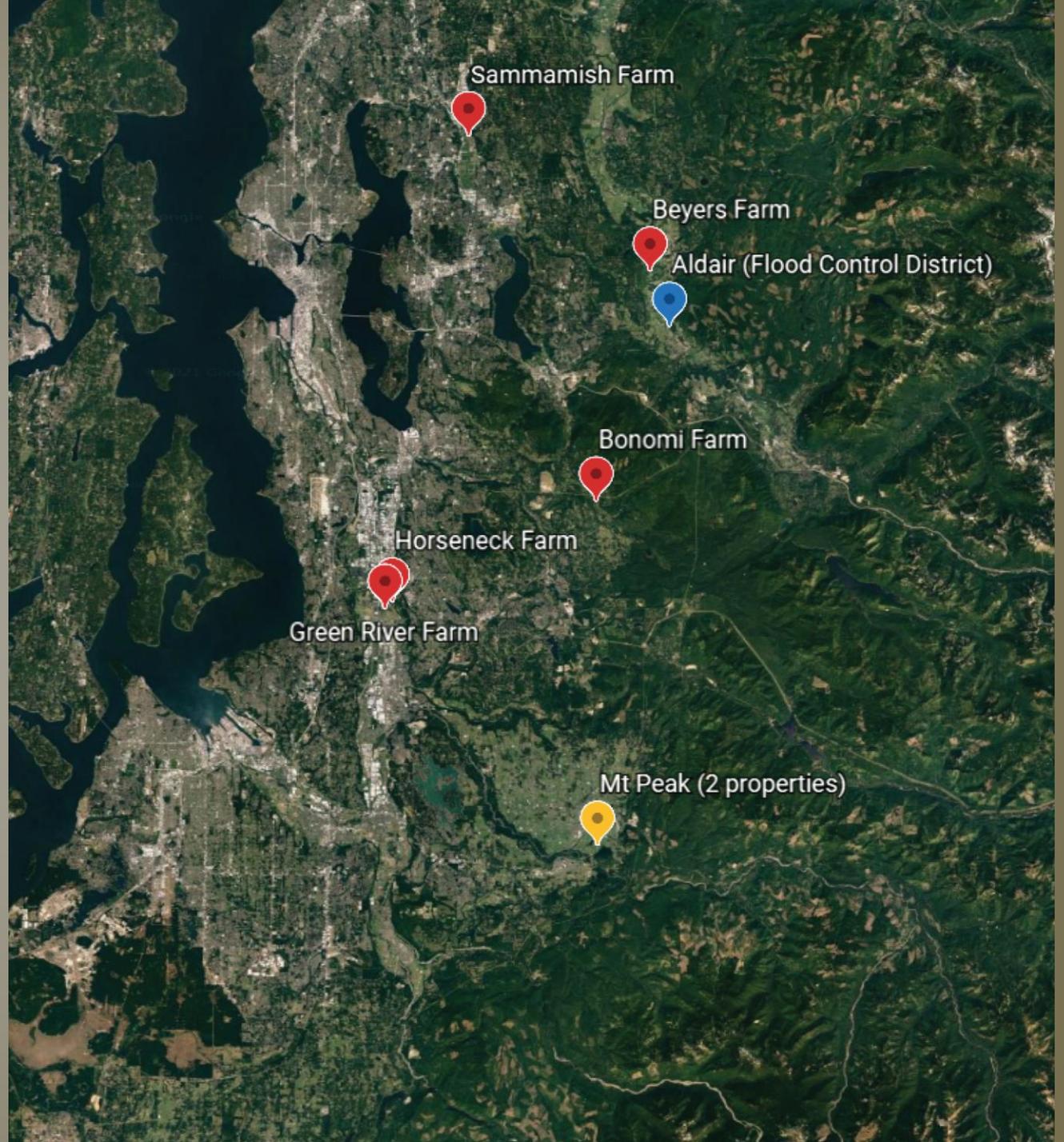
Long Term Portfolio



Managed for others



Surplus





Farmers

- Minimum 1 year farming experience
- Growing commercially
- Socially disadvantaged and/or
- New & Beginning (<10 yr)



Land

- ▶ 6-year lease (1+5 years)
 - ▶ Selected through an RFP process
 - ▶ Lease at market rates
 - ▶ Determined via a market rate survey every 5 years
- 2021: \$450/\$350/\$80
(Prior: \$250/\$150/\$50)



Infrastructure

Consistent at our 5 Primary Farms

- Access
- Security
- Irrigation*
- Wash/Pack + potable water
- Secure storage
- Sani-can

*As water rights allow

➤ **Sammamish Farm** (18 acres leased to 5 farm businesses)

➤ **Green River Farm** (20 acres leased to 10 farm businesses)

➤ **Beyers Farm** (20 acres leased to SnoValley Tilth; 5 farm businesses)

➤ **Bonomi Farm**

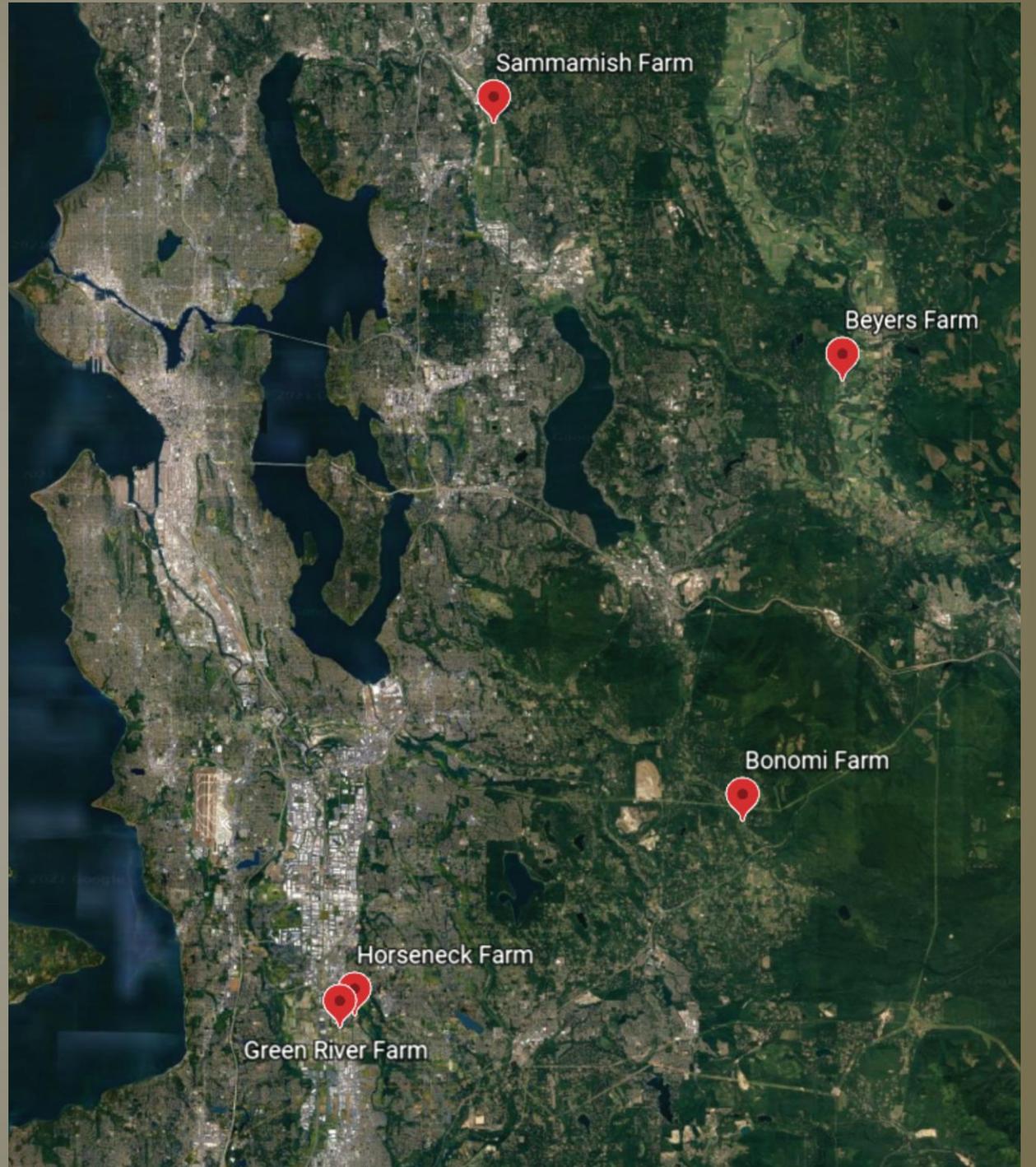
➤ 3 acres to Wakulima USA

➤ 5 acres to a farm business

➤ **Horseneck Farm**

➤ 21 acres leased to 1 farm business,

➤ 5 acres leased to FAACT, a coalition of groups supporting BIPOC farmers (estimated 10-15 farm businesses)



Approach

- ▶ Lease to farmers with farming experience
- ▶ Collaborate with partners on sub-leases
 - ▶ Expand who we can serve
 - ▶ Partners provide culturally and linguistically appropriate support
 - ▶ Shared site improvements
- ▶ Partners for services
 - ▶ Land matching
 - ▶ Technical support
 - ▶ Market access
 - ▶ Business support/financing



2021 Priorities

- Surplus Mt Peak properties
- Select infrastructure improvement on farms
- Finalize Strategic Infrastructure Improvement Plan
- Explore grant and other funding sources
- Deepen relationships with partners (including Farm King County Technical Assistance Team, Working Farmland Partnership, King Conservation District, Northwest Ag Business Center, Business Impact Northwest)



Some questions to spark discussion:

- Are we on the right track with the minimum infrastructure at each site?
- What do you think about our proposal to place term limits on leases & work with farmers when it is time for them to transition off of County land?
- What do you think of the location of the properties in our portfolio and their distribution across the County?



Note: This presentation was given verbally and is presented here from an excerpt of the meeting minutes included in the March 11, 2021 meeting packet. Mr. Seitz's contact info has been added at the end of the summary.

New Business:

Presentation: Wildlife & Livestock – Landowner Steps

(Rick Reinlasoder, DNRP; Tucker Seitz, WDFW, Wildlife Conflict Specialist)

Mr. Reinlasoder, livestock specialist for DNRP, introduced Tucker Seitz of WDFW, who works with landowners to find creative solutions to wildlife issues. Recent fatal attacks on livestock in the Enumclaw/Auburn area have sparked interest by the County and Commission in being proactive to prevent future wildlife attacks.

Mr. Seitz's focuses are mitigating vegetation damage from species such as deer/elk, and livestock husbandry. For livestock/predator interactions, he advised securing livestock at night and keeping track of any changes (like injuries) to address quickly. Hazing wildlife – running them out of an area – can also be a deterrent, mainly with deer/elk.

Lethal options are available and proven to make some species more skittish. WDFW has a Master Hunter program, where rigorously vetted volunteer hunters, who can operate outside general hunting season, are linked with landowners to mitigate damages. WDFW also issues permits that act as “contracts” between a landowner and WDFW to hunt crop-damaging animals. For predators, trap-and-removal is preferred. Lethal predator removal is a last option, as this damage can oft be prevented by better managing of livestock. Some compensation is available to landowners producing \$10K per year of a crop commercially or those who lose livestock to a predator. Labor is available as well, such as Master Hunters installing fences or hazing deer/elk. These determinations are made based on Mr. Seitz's site visit and filing a report on his findings with the state WDFW office in Olympia.

Follow-up discussion from Commissioners and guests raised the following points:

- Anyone with wildlife issues, especially animal attacks, should call WDFW's enforcement hotline, the regional Mill Creek office, or Mr. Seitz directly. A call to 911's non-emergency line can also be referred to WDFW. Mr. Seitz covers King and Snohomish counties. Mr. Reinlasoder can offer limited consultation on predator losses as well.
- Mr. Seitz is not versed to consult on livestock guardian animals like dogs, and defers to landowner expertise here.
- Any carcass should be undisturbed and/or covered until WDFW can come investigate. Euthanizing injured wildlife is illegal unless dispatched by WDFW or enforcement.
- Beavers and waterfowl are issues that information is being gathered on.
- Mr. Seitz maintains a Master Hunter list for each county and region and can be contacted to dispatch a hunter to a specific location.
- There is no regularly-produced WDFW depredation report, but the information can be obtained through a Public Disclosure Request.
- Eagle/hawk predation was cited as a likely underreported problem in King County, particularly on the Enumclaw Plateau. Mr. Seitz said birds of prey are managed by USFWS, but WDFW can provide non-lethal deterrents. He encouraged any wildlife attack on someone's animal to be reported to WDFW so there is record of the incident and a plan can be developed to address the problem.

Tucker Sietz may be reached at WDFW by phone at (425) 410.9160 or email: tucker.seitz@dfw.wa.gov