

KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY JANUARY 13, 2021

6:00-8:00 P.M.

ZOOM VIDEO CALL

CALL IN:

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,82266125233#,,,,*574991#

Land line: +1 253 215 8782, Meeting ID: 822 6612 5233, Passcode: 574991

OR

LOG IN FROM A COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82266125233?pwd=emkvY3Q2bDRyQXd5ZjZBRmNHU2NuQT09>

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: <i>December</i>	Kevin Scott, Chair
6:05	Public Comment related to a specific agenda item <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Kevin Scott
6:10	Old Business - Updates (approx. 3 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Commission Details<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ag policy and eventsSelection CommitteeKing County Ag ProgramKing Conservation DistrictLocal Food InitiativeKing-Pierce Farm BureauFarm Fish Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Patrice BarrentineKevin ScottRichard MartinCarrie KingMike LufkinLeann KrainickRichard Martin
6:30	New Business Farming and Wildlife: Beavers <ul style="list-style-type: none">PresentationQ&ADiscussion	Jen Vanderhoof, Senior Ecologist, King County WLRD
7:00	Policy Review: Green River alternatives (3) to the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) <ul style="list-style-type: none">printed materialsvideos Overview and PEIS alternativesmotion to send letterdiscussionvote	Kevin Scott, Patrice Barrentine
7:35	Planning for 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Topics calendarCommitteesBrainstorm by commissioners	Kevin Scott, Darron Marzolf, Patrice Barrentine
7:50	General Public Comment <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Kevin Scott
7:55	Concerns of Commissioners	Kevin Scott
8:00	Adjourn	Kevin Scott

Next Meeting: February 10th, 2022



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King County Agriculture Commission
DRAFT Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 9, 2021 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Zoom Video Conference Call

Commissioners Present (Y/N)					
Nayab Khan, Chair	Y	Andrew Ely	N	Shelley Pasco	N
Kevin Scott-Vandenberg, Vice-Chair	Y	Lily Gottlieb-McHale	N	Henry Wong	Y
Jessi Bloom	Y	Janet Keller	Y		
Roger Calhoun	Y	Darron Marzolf	Y		
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Fereshteh Dehkordi, DLS	N	Jordan Jobe, WSU	N	Carrie King, KCD	Y
County Staff/Representatives Present					
Patrice Barrentine, DNRP	Matt Kuharic, DNRP				
Melissa Borsting, DNRP	Richard Martin, DNRP				
Guests Present					
Ben Blue	Leann Krainick				
Henna Khan	Kim Roeser				

Meeting Summary

- **Actions: Approvals of Agenda and October 2021 Meeting Minutes**
- **Old Business: Commission, County, and Agriculture Organization Updates**
- **New Business: Commission Officer Elections**
- **Presentations: Strategic Climate Action Plan**

Meeting called to order by Chair Nayab Khan at 6:06 pm

Roll Call/Announcement of Staff & Public (Nayab Khan)

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

ACTION: Approval of Special Meeting Agenda (Nayab Khan)

Darron Marzolf motioned to accept the agenda as-is. Janet Keller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. This was a special meeting to make up for November’s meeting, cancelled due to weather and power outages.

ACTION: Approval of October 2021 Meeting Minutes (Nayab Khan)

Darron Marzolf motioned to accept the minutes as-is. Janet Keller seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Comment – Related to Specific Agenda Item (Nayab Khan)

There was no public comment given during this period.

Old Business – Updates

- **Commission Details/Agriculture Policy & Events (Patrice Barrentine):**
 - King County Council (KCC) and its committee schedules will be affected by the holidays; check the Council website for current information.
 - KCC Ordinance 2021-0301 passed full Council November 16th with amendments. This Ordinance establishes the King County “C-PACER” (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency) financing

program that supports infrastructure improvements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy and water use, while increasing green jobs and seismic resilience.

- There has been progress on the Climate Equity Bond program, which Melissa Borsting will report on later.
- Commissioners are encouraged to participate in the Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan scoping process, which includes public meetings on January 6th, 2022 from 2:30-4:00 pm and 6:00-7:30 pm. If the Commission wants to comment, they should move quickly, but more comment opportunities will come in the next two years as the plan develops. More information is at www.LowerGreenSEPA.org.
- Reappointments for Darron Marzolf, Roger Calhoon, and Kevin Scott-Vandenberg have been confirmed by KCC; reappointment of Lily Gottlieb-McHale awaits KCC action. Recommendations to appoint new Commissioners have been approved for Andrew Ely, Jessi Bloom, and Janet Keller; recommendations for Henry Wong and Shelley Pasco have received Local Services Committee approval and await full KCC action.
- The 2022 Washington legislative session will begin January 10th and be a hybrid of remote and in-person.
- Congratulations were offered to former Commissioner Rosella Mosby, newly elected president of Washington State Farm Bureau (WSFB). Rosella is the first woman president of WSFB.
- There is an ongoing multi-session virtual conference, “Farming on the Urban Edge,” sponsored by WSU. More information is at www.periurbanagriculture.org/conferencesessions.
- Commissioners were directed to information on [flood preparedness](#) and the Local Food Initiative newsletter.
- USDA hosted a webinar on November 18th, reviewing several new farmer cost-share/conservation programs. USDA’s 2022 Census of Agriculture is also underway.
- Commission meeting topics in 2021 and a draft of possible topics for 2022 were reviewed; any feedback should be sent to Patrice Barrentine. In first quarter 2022 the Commission will solidify this list.
- There was a reminder of the 2022 meeting schedule; most meetings will remain via video conference call. There are plans for an eventual in-person meeting and/or field trip.
- **Selection Committee (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg):** Applications for new Commissioners were reviewed in November. The selection committee (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg, Jessi Bloom, and Janet Keller) recommended five applicants to fill current and expected vacancies. DNR leadership is reviewing the recommendation; a decision is expected in January. The five candidates will represent a diversity of interests and experiences on the Commission.
- **King County Agriculture Program (Richard Martin):**
 - Staff are completing end-of-season in-person meetings with farmers on County-owned farms. Farmers reported on what went well, not-so-well, and what further resources KC can provide to support and expand their farm businesses. Key issues reported included: access to irrigation water and cold storage, security, soil health, and deer. KC hopes to develop a formal mentoring and technical support program next year and is interested in having Commissioners join the effort as mentors or as participants in workshops.
 - Laura Hendrix was recently hired by DNR as its new floodplain manager. Hendrix comes to KC from Montana and worked with farmers and ranchers who managed lands in floodplains. Hendrix hopes to bring this knowledge to KC and help farmers here deal with regulatory challenges in the floodplain. Hendrix will work closely with Eric Beach.
 - Bee Cha’s appointment as KC Farm Manager ends in May 2022; the County will be looking for a short-term employee or contractor to assist with farm management needs for three to four months in summer and fall after Cha leaves. Richard Martin has asked for funding in 2023 to convert the position to a full-time, permanent position. Commission members will be notified when recruitment announcements are issued.
- **King Conservation District (Carrie King):**
 - There is a vacancy on KCD’s Board of Supervisors; the filing period ends December 13th.
 - 17 applicants are expected to receive grant awards through the Regional Food System program soon.
 - KCD’s annual plant sale has sold over \$130,000 and 27 species sold out, topping last year’s sale.
 - KCD’s new Executive Director, Rosa Méndez-Perez, is focused on KCD reorganization and is working with Catherine Lewis from Pierce Conservation District to revise the KCD budget/financial system. KCD’s budget will be passed this coming Monday and KCD looks forward to presenting it soon.
- **Local Food Initiative:** There was no update for this item.
- **King-Pierce Farm Bureau (Leann Krainick):**
 - Krainick recognized outgoing KC Councilmember Kathy Lambert for 20 years as “ag-vocate” and supporter of KC farmers. Nayab Khan asked how to encourage the incoming Councilmember’s engagement with the Commission. Patrice Barrentine said Commissioners can each engage their specific Councilmember or the Commission can send a letter to KCC, welcoming the new Councilmember and stating the Commission looks forward to partnering with them. A motion would need to be made and passed by the Commission for this.

- Krainick reiterated Rosella Mosby’s election as state FB president and noted Mosby is also its first president from Pierce or King County, signaling a shift in the FB delegation’s appreciation for agriculture west of the Cascades. Mosby plans to bridge the gap between eastern and western Washington agriculture.
- The FB “Policy Book” was reviewed and approved as guidance for FB lobbyists during the 2022 state legislative session. There were few changes, but much discussion, and no consensus on how inclusive it should be; FB’s policy committee will likely take it back for further review next year.
- Washington Department of Ecology’s (DOE) efforts to implement Water Resources Policy 1025 are on hold, after state FB, the Dairy Federation, and others argued DOE lacks authority to require water rights for using surface water for livestock watering. The policy is intended to convey stock water away from streams to protect water quality. This is relevant to KC agriculture in that many farmers here don’t have irrigation, but use cisterns that collect water, some of which comes from ditches.
- KPFB meetings are in-person the third Monday monthly. Any hoping to attend by video can contact Krainick.
- **Farm Fish Flood 2.0 (Patrice Barrentine):** The next meeting of the Fish Farm Flood Implementation Oversight Committee is scheduled for Monday, December 13th, 2021 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Strategic Climate Action Plan – SCAP (Leann Krainick, Matt Kuharic)

Leann Krainick introduced this topic, describing Krainick Dairy’s recent issues in receiving dependable electricity. Multiple PSE outages have caused major uninsured losses; there is concern emission reduction mandates and shifts to renewable energy may impact future dependable delivery of electricity.

The Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) was adopted in 2021 as guiding policy for KC climate action. The next update will be in 2024 with adoption in 2025; there are hopes to engage the Commission for input. The Commission had written a letter expressing support as well as concerns about SCAP, impacts of climate change on agriculture, and farmers needing resources and incentives for climate action. Matt Kuharic, DNRP’s Senior Climate Program Manager, overviewed planning for 2020’s SCAP update and its actions related to energy delivery and fossil fuel reliance. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

It was asked if there is a SCAP advisory board; Kuharic said there is only a Climate Equity Community Task Force, which only guides actions related to SCAP’s section on Sustainable and Resilient Frontline Communities. Progress reports are submitted to full KCC to ensure SCAP implementation. Krainick noted that current green technology is not affordable to farmers, and hopes initiatives like SCAP will provide more government funding and assistance, and improve infrastructure and awareness of climate impacts. Krainick agreed a SCAP advisory group is a good idea, that SCAP would benefit from farmer input. Patrice Barrentine advised the Commission consider a future action/agenda item to write a letter suggesting sector input in the next SCAP and continued partnership on key pieces for agriculture.

New Business: Officer Elections (Nayab Khan, Patrice Barrentine)

Nayab Khan voiced appreciation in being able to serve on the Commission and as Chair this past year. Khan will serve until new members are on-boarded and then will step down. Khan moved on to nomination and election of Commission Chair and vice-Chair for 2022. Nominations were received for Kevin Scott-Vanderberge as Chair and Darron Marzolf as vice-Chair. Khan asked for any additional nominations from the floor; none were received.

Roger Calhoun motioned Kevin Scott-Vanderberge be elected Chair and Darron Marzolf elected vice-Chair for 2022; Scott-Vanderberge seconded the motion. Marzolf and Scott-Vanderberge accepted the nominations. Khan called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously by Zoom chat vote, due to ongoing internet connection issues.

King County’s Farmland Leasing Program (Melissa Borsting)

Due to the ongoing internet connection issues, Patrice Barrentine recommended ending tonight’s meeting early and moving this presentation to 2022. Nayab Khan agreed and called for an early adjournment.

Public Comment – General (Nayab Khan)

This item was cancelled due to ongoing internet connectivity issues.

Concerns of Commissioners (Nayab Khan)

This item was cancelled due to ongoing internet connectivity issues.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm

Next Meeting(s)

January 13th, 2022, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Zoom Video Conference Call)