

# KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

## MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2023

6:00-8:00 P.M.

**ZOOM VIDEO CALL**

CALL IN:

One tap mobile: +12532050468,,81996601897#,,,,\*020032# US

Land line: +1 253 215 8782, Meeting ID: 819 9660 1897

OR

LOG IN FROM A COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81996601897?pwd=VTJpbTArSmRrOC8yL1E1dm4zcEx2Zz09>

## MEETING AGENDA

### *The Commission's 2023 Focus is Farmland Preservation*

6:00	<b>Call to Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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 public</li><li>Approval of Agenda</li><li>Approval of Meeting Minutes: <i>November and January</i></li></ul>	Kevin Scott, Chair
6:05	<b>Public Comment</b> related to a specific agenda item <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Kevin Scott
6:10	<b>Old Business - Updates</b> (approx. 3 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Commission Details, Policy, Ag Education &amp; Events</li><li>King County Ag Program</li><li>King Conservation District</li><li>Local Food Initiative</li><li>Washington State University CSANR</li><li>Food Business Resource Center/BINW</li><li>King-Pierce Farm Bureau</li><li>Farm Fish Flood</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Patrice Barrentine</li><li>Richard Martin</li><li>Matt Mega</li><li>Mike Lufkin</li><li>Jordan Jobe</li><li>Henry Wong</li><li>Leann Krainick</li><li>Richard Martin</li></ul>
6:45	<b>New Business</b> <b>Large events on farmland in APDs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Carnation Farms TUP proposal for concert series</li><li>Similar activities (Woodinville Winery parking)</li><li>Q&amp;A</li><li>Discussion</li><li>Possible action (motion/vote) to send letter with policy statement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>John Taylor, Director, KC Dept of Local Services</li><li>Jim Chan, Director, Permitting Division, KC Dept of Local Services</li><li>Lauren Smith, Director of Regional Planning, KC Executive's Office</li></ul>
7:45	<b>Ag Commission Planning Continued</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Officer interest</li><li>Next Steps for Farmland Preservation focus</li></ul>	Kevin Scott and Darron Marzolf
7:50	<b>General Public Comment</b> <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Kevin Scott
7:55	<b>Concerns of Commissioners</b>	Kevin Scott
8:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	Kevin Scott

**Next Meeting: March 9, 2022**



**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, November 10, 2022 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**Zoom Video Conference Call**

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

**Meeting Summary**

- **Actions: Approvals of Agenda and October 2022 Meeting Minutes; officer elections for 2023**
- **Old Business: Commission, Policy, County, & Agriculture Organization Updates**
- **Discussion: Farmland Preservation Concerns in Kent Area**
- **Presentation: King County 2023-2024 Budget**

***Meeting called to order by Chair Kevin Scott-Vandenberg at 6:02 pm***

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

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

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

Janet Keller motioned to approve tonight’s agenda as-is. Darron Marzolf seconded the motion, which carried with unanimous approval.

**ACTION: Approval of October 2022 Meeting Minutes (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)**

Darron Marzolf motioned to approve the October meeting minutes as-is. Nayab Khan seconded the motion, which carried with unanimous approval.

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

There was no public comment given during this period.

**Old Business – Updates**

- **Commission Details/Agriculture Policy & Events (Patrice Barrentine):**
  - King County’s Flood Management Plan (FMP) kickoff meeting was held online in October. There has been no movement generating the plan due to the SEPA process still being underway. Presentations to the Commission will come next year. The FMP’s Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is also underway, with a comment period through December 9.
  - The King County Comprehensive (“Comp”) Plan update goes before King County Council (KCC) later this month to adopt a striking amendment to the 2022 Comp Plan. The 2024 Comp Plan, also underway, is separate from this. The 2022 plan addendum is not expected to significantly affect agriculture or rural King County.

- 2022 USDA Agriculture Census: Many farmers should be receiving their census forms this month. These must be completed by February 2023, with data expected to be released in spring/summer 2024. USDA asks that the census be completed online, but it can also be done on paper if necessary.
- Business Impacts Northwest: Devra Gartenstein has been hired as BINW’s King County Farm Business Support Specialist. Her services are available for free to consult food and farm businesses in King County.
- USDA’s Risk Management is offering workshops about its Whole Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm insurance programs. Rates for these programs are subsidized by the federal government.
- The Tilth Conference kicked off today, as well as the Focus on Farming conference in Snohomish County.
- The WA State Dairy Federation conference is in December, as well as the state Farm Bureau conference.
- **King County Agriculture Program (Richard Martin):**
  - Griffin Creek Alluvial Fan Pilot Project: Griffin Creek is a tributary of the Snoqualmie River near Carnation, flooding on which has caused infrastructure challenges for two local farmers. Due to recent channel structure changes, fish were not getting upstream and were dying in the farm fields. There was a clear Farm Fish Flood (FFF) focus to the project. One anticipated FFF outcome was to find pathways to explore drainage projects outside the Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP). Eric Beach was the project manager and worked with County partners including King Conservation District (KCD) and the Snoqualmie Watershed Improvement District (WID). The project was completed in mid-October. A new channel has been created and is working well; the fields are drained and much drier. Martin said this project is a good example of how the three FFF interests can work and succeed together at one site.
  - Horseneck Farm Project: King County Executive Dow Constantine made a site visit to this farm recently. The farm is being transitioned from a single commercial grower to shared space for multiple organizations supporting BIPOC farmers. Requests for Proposals (RFP) for Year 3 of the project are being accepted now. The County seeks to encourage new and beginning farmers who might not have access to farmland. The RFP deadline is November 20, at which point the next round of farmers to bring onto the site will be selected. Anyone interested in helping score proposals that week should contact Richard Martin.
  - The County has acquired 112 acres of Misty Isle Farm on Vashon Island, which includes 46 acres of farmable land. This also includes all water rights, which are being examined. There will be public outreach engagement efforts in early 2023 to develop a plan for the farmable land. The County wants to ensure the land is farmed to maximum extent possible. The land was purchased using Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) funds.
  - Bee Cha, King County farm manager, has been asked to reach out to the Hmong community to recruit a door-to-door enumerator to work with Hmong farmers who are unable to submit their USDA agriculture census forms online. The plan is to then expand this effort to other underrepresented communities in King County.
- **King Conservation District (Matt Mega):**
  - KCD has hired a consultant to help with its Food Systems Grant program. KCD sees this as a chance to evaluate not only the grant program, but their community partners and how they can be engaged. They will also look at the agriculture strategic plan for the County.
  - All funds for this year’s landowner cost-share incentive program were spent; this is one of the first years this happened. Costs are coming in higher.
  - KCD continues to work on farm planning. They were also heavily involved in the Griffin Creek project, with Liz Stockton working with Eric Beach.
- **Local Food Initiative (Mike Lufkin):** There was no update on this item.
- **WSU CSANR (Jordan Jobe):** There was no update on this item.
- **King-Pierce Farm Bureau (Leann Krainick):**
  - KPFB’s annual meeting was held at the Museum of Flight in Seattle on October 17. Agriculture Commission Chair Kevin Scott-Vanderberge and several local and federal legislative staff were present.
  - The Farm Bill is coming up in the current legislative session; for any concerns on it, please reach out to Gemma Sager, community outreach coordinator for Congresswoman Kim Schrier’s office.
  - The annual state FB meeting will be in Wenatchee, and will focus on discussing the Policy Book which FB gives to lobbyists to represent FB’s position on agricultural issues. The meeting will feature guest speakers and election of new officers. Former Commissioner Rosella Mosby is running for FB President again. Krainick encouraged interested parties to consider attending, noting the legislative session is coming up in January and all voices are welcome.
- **Farm Fish Flood 2.0 (Richard Martin):**
  - A task force is recommending amendments to the Comp Plan, focused on planning on a watershed scale. The farm caucus is focused on Comp Plan documents R649, R650, and R650A. The task force is trying to revise

Comp Plan language to guide FFF into future: how work will be finished, and how to establish processes by which all projects can be vetted that address all agriculture interests. This would codify the process for clearly hearing agricultural interests. There has been good progress on this. Martin said he appreciates the concept of FFF being widely adopted and agricultural interests being heard.

- The Griffin Creek project has also been a chance to test what is being called the Integrated Drainage Program (IDP). This is essentially the action item known as “Farm 2” in FFF, the development of a comprehensive drainage program addressing legislative and regulatory hurdles. Eric Beach is working on finalizing what integrated drainage will look like. Beach will return to report to the Commission on the IDP and how it will be applied going forward.
- The FFF buffer task force completed work identifying recommended riparian buffer widths for work in the Snoqualmie Valley, but not how to implement them or determine minimum size. Melissa Borsting is pulling together a team to understand and refine implementing these recommendations, to determine a full defined spectrum of minimum to maximum buffer widths. They will look at ways to maximize ecological benefits of buffers without taking up more farmland acreage. Borsting can come present to the Commission if needed.

### **New Business – Noxious Weeds Bindweed Plan (Steven Burke)**

This item was skipped due to the absence of the presenter.

### **ACTION: Officer Elections for 2023 (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)**

Chair Scott-Vandenberg and Vice-Chair Darron Marzolf encouraged anyone interested in serving as Chair or Vice-Chair of the Commission in 2023 to speak up. No one present voiced an interest. Scott-Vandenberg asked if Marzolf would be willing to continue to serve as Vice-Chair for the coming year; Marzolf agreed.

Patrice Barrentine noted the Commission still does not have a full roster, and there is no need to pressure anyone yet as the Commission can continue in its current status a bit beyond the new year. Scott-Vandenberg and Marzolf are both willing to serve in their current capacity until this discussion can be revisited. However, Barrentine added there is a motion needed now – either for a temporary extension of Scott-Vandenberg and Marzolf’s terms, or a flat-out election for them to continue their terms through 2023.

Nayab Khan motioned to extend the chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of Scott-Vandenberg and Marzolf until nominations are next revisited on the Commission’s meeting agenda. Janet Keller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. It was agreed the Commission would revisit this topic in January or February 2023.

### **Old Business/Discussion: Farmland Preservation Concerns in Kent Area (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg, Darron Marzolf)**

The Commission discussed a letter received June 21 regarding farmland loss in the Kent Valley, from Chenelle Tyack, a concerned citizen of the Valley. Andrew Ely said the Commission should proactively engage the County on new ways to preserve farmland beyond existing programs. Ely noted the issues raised in Tyack’s letter are faced elsewhere in King County as well. Darron Marzolf suggested invigorating existing programs that have already proven effective in farmland preservation, such as Washington Farmland Trust.

It was observed that much of the lost farmland highlighted in Tyack’s letter is not in unincorporated King County, but within Kent city limits. It was discussed how the City of Kent has not always been supportive in preserving farmland. Ely said the Commission should engage with other jurisdictions on how land preservation can happen. Leann Krainick advised that while Kent has historically been “hot and cold” regarding farmers, the climate there might be more favorable now for a conversation on this topic. Janet Keller also suggested looking into designating any historic buildings with a state status under the state’s Historical Barn Preservation program.

Richard Martin explained that while the County’s Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) has gotten easements within city limits in the past, it is generally King County policy to not pursue these without the backing of the city. Martin agreed action needs to be taken to protect APDs surrounded by development. Ted Sullivan, who oversees FPP, can discuss alternate ways to preserve farmland with the Commission in the coming year. Andrew Ely noted that speculation and artificial inflation of land prices make farmland inaccessible to potential farmers. Ely suggested educating the public more on King County’s land preservation programs, to raise awareness and support. Martin said the County will talk more with the Commission in the coming year about efforts to provide farmland access, and on digging deeper into the effectiveness of the County’s farmland preservation programs.

Patrice Barrentine added that the FFF agriculture strategic plan task force is excited to show the acreage numbers they’ve come up with for a viable farmland economy in the Snoqualmie Valley. Ely expressed interest in seeing comparison areas with urban growth not abutting farmland.

### **Presentation: 2023-2024 King County Budget (Richard Martin)**

Richard Martin provided an overview of the 2023-2024 budget for the County’s agriculture program. The County is on a two-year budget cycle. The Executive submits the budget which is now under consideration by KCC and generally approved around Thanksgiving. Martin reviewed the agriculture program’s funding sources and breakdown of expenses both this year and the previous year. Martin’s presentation can be viewed [here](#).

There were several follow-up questions and comments for Martin’s presentation:

- Q: What is KCD funding?  
A: Grant funding, which funds Melissa Borsting’s position and part of Bee Cha’s position. It also includes the Local Food System grant program, which is used to fund term-limited specific projects.
- Q: Can you speak to the changes in expenses, such as facilities?  
A: The facilities expense changed due to program staff largely working from home now, with about half the physical space they used before.
- Q: Why did overhead costs go up, then?  
A: There was a reorganization of where individual programs fall in our division. The agriculture program used to fall under the Surface Water Management (SWM) fund, which paid a greater portion of our overhead. We now fall under the Shared Services fund, so the part that SWM paid now gets put back onto our program. About 28% of the “wages and benefits” is our overhead rate, and that goes into a pool for the County that supports most of the work the County does. We pay a small portion of all those people’s expenses.
- Q: What about the change in PAO (Prosecuting Attorney’s Office) expenses?  
A: This is actual assessment based on our use. We used very little of their time before 2021-2022, but the usage rate was readjusted because we used them more before 2023-2024.

Martin also noted about \$65,000 in their budget each year is used for “unforeseen” expenses. Part of the budget is also earmarked for the Commission, some supplies, and about 25% of Commission liaison Patrice Barrentine’s salary.

### **Public Comment – General (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)**

There was no public comment during this period.

### **Concerns of Commissioners (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)**

**Kevin Scott-Vandenberg** had an opportunity to work with Afghans of Puget Sound Alliance, to purchase an Enumclaw property that was brought back into production to produce halal meat. Scott-Vandenberg thanked Patrice Barrentine, Darron Marzolf, Ted Sullivan, and several others for their help in getting this property into production, and noted this has been a memorable year for the Commission with them taking on many issues.

***Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm***

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### **Next Meeting(s)**

January 12, 2023, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Zoom Video Conference Call)



**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, January 12, 2023 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**Zoom Video Conference Call**

Commissioners Present (Y/N)					
Kevin Scott-Vandenberg, Chair	Y	Andrew Ely	N	Shelley Pasco	N
Darron Marzolf, Vice-Chair	N	Janet Keller (*arrived late)	Y*	Henry Wong (*left early)	Y*
Jessi Bloom	Y	Nayab Khan	Y		
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Jordan Jobe, WSU	Y	Matt Mega, KCD	Y		
County Staff/Representatives Present					
Patrice Barrentine, DNRP		Richard Martin, DNRP			
Eric Beach, DNRP		Megan Moore, DNRP			
Guests Present					
Eric Brandjes		Leann Krainick		Chenelle Tyack	
Henna Khan		Stacey Smith			

**Meeting Summary**

- **Actions: Approvals of Agenda and November 2022 Meeting Minutes (*Deferred – No Quorum*)**
- **Old Business: Commission, Policy, County, & Organization Updates; Commission Planning for 2023**
- **Presentation: Permitting and Regulatory Support for Agriculture**

***Meeting called to order by Chair Kevin Scott-Vandenberg at 6:07 pm (No Quorum)***

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

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

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

This action was deferred due to a lack of quorum.

**ACTION: Approval of November 2022 Meeting Minutes (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)**

This action was deferred to next meeting due to a lack of quorum.

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

There was no public comment given during this period.

**Old Business – Updates**

- **Commission Details/Agriculture Policy & Events (Patrice Barrentine):**
  - The 2022 annual report of the Commission’s activities has been submitted to the Executive.
  - Annual financial disclosure forms are due from Commissioners ASAP. Those interested in being appointed to the Commission must submit these as well.
  - As part of its annual reorganization, King County Council (KCC) has named Dave Upthegrove as its Chair, with Jeanne Kohl-Welles and Reagan Dunn as Vice-Chairs. There have been a few changes to Committee leadership assignments as well.
  - Councilmember Sarah Perry invited the Commission to brief KCC’s Land Services and Land Use (LSLU) Committee. Several dates are available. The last Commission briefing to KCC was May 2018.

- The state legislative session began January 9 and runs at least to April 15. The cutoff calendar, which details dates by which bills must move through process to stay active, is usually adopted by the third week of January.
- WSU’s “Cultivating Success” online course begins this week.
- The Washington State Farmers Markets annual conference is February 24 – 25 in Leavenworth, and always features a large presence by King County.
- Good Food Connections, a trade conference serving the Puget Sound food community, is scheduled for February 27 in Seattle. Tickets are now on sale.
- Jen Vanderhoof of King County DNRP has published a 200+ page manual/scientific paper on planning for beavers, to help minimize impacts. The link is in today’s meeting packet.
- There is no update on new Commissioner recruitment, though it remains a high priority. The hope is to have the first group seated by May with another group seated shortly after.
- **King County Agriculture Program (Richard Martin):**
  - King County is beginning its third year at Horseneck Farm near Kent. This year, ten more acres will be brought into use, for a total of 23 of 26 acres of land farmed under the new collaborative farming venture at the site. This year was the second round of formal Requests for Proposal (RFP) where public proposals were accepted. Previously, the County would lease land to partner organizations, who would in turn lease to farmers ¼ to one ½ acre of land. Now, established farmers or farm organizations can be offered up to two to three acres. Three farm businesses are being brought in this year under this new provision. King County is also bringing to the site an organization called Jacobs Agro, to join Wakulima, International Rescue Committee, and Living Well Kent to help support farmers. There are about 20 different farm businesses and 50 individual farmers at Horseneck. Martin suggested bringing the Commission to the farm perhaps in July or August when activity is at its peak.
  - Six other farms are managed and leased by King County, for a total of about 40 businesses and over 100 farmers, mostly new and/or BIPOC farmers.
  - The agriculture program received a \$1 million grant from the Climate Equity Capital Pool to upgrade infrastructure on County-owned land. The plan is to invest heavily in long-needed improvements to the five core County farms.
  - The agriculture program now has a collaboration with DNRP’s Solid Waste Division (SWD) to provide compost to farmers on County-owned farms. Martin reported that farmers are happy with the product and results and are asking for more. The biggest challenge for the County is applying compost at a smaller scale, finding the equipment to do so. The program has submitted a grant proposal to the Washington Conservation Commission to acquire a spreader to make available to farmers. Matt Mega noted that King Conservation District (KCD) also has a manure spreader available for farmer rental/use. Nayab Khan cautioned that improperly composted horse/cow manure can lead to the spread of some noxious weeds.
  - The agriculture program is working on another grant proposal to WSDA, exploring multiple land tenure models to support new/BIPOC farmers with their vision of becoming farm owners.
- **King Conservation District (Matt Mega):**
  - KCD has almost completed its annual report for 2022. Data points include: 50 new farm plans, 217 technical assists for about 300 farmers, two dairy plans, a couple of concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) plans, and almost four miles of agricultural drainage completed. This drainage resulted in 138 improved acres (163 acres of restored farmland) and about 16 farms helped.
  - KCD had earmarked about \$243,000 for its landowner improvements cost-share program, which their farm team went through quickly this year. Another \$60,000 was spent in the summer.
  - Mega and Mike Lufkin of DNRP are collaborating on the regional food system program, currently doing a third-party evaluation of all regional food system grants through a consultant, Cardilla. Results should be available by mid-2023.
  - Lufkin and Mega are also looking at agriculture strategic planning work for the County. They visited 70 acres newly leased by Living Well Farms in Auburn. There are many issues – water rights, zoning, etc. – that must be addressed for the land to be farmable; Mega suggested the Commission look further into this later this year.
  - Washington State Conservation Commission is conducting a tour soon which will be hosted by KCD.
- **Local Food Initiative (Mike Lufkin):** There was no update on this item.
- **WSU CSANR (Jordan Jobe):**
  - WSU is hosting a free virtual [soil health initiative conference](#) February 14-15.
  - A new King County extension director is being hired and should start in the next couple of months. Jobe will encourage them to participate in Commission meetings.

- **Food Business Resource Center/BINW (Henry Wong):** There was no update on this item.
- **King-Pierce Farm Bureau (Leann Krainick):**
  - Basic priorities for Farm Bureau (FB) this legislative session include:
    - Buffer and riparian zones: These need to be kept under control, made voluntary for landowners, and landowners should be compensated for them.
    - Protecting and enhancing reliable power. Krainick stressed that FB is not against “clean” energy, but they are not certain the technology is at an effective and reliable level yet.
    - Washington State is looking at linking its emissions program to California’s. FB believes this could be a detriment to farmers, with tight margins that some farmers may be unable to afford.
    - Affordable access to water supply: FB wants to ensure the farming water supply stays for farming and not for urban development/industry.
  - FB scholarships are available to high school seniors or students pursuing a four-year degree at a four-year school. Applicants must be at least an associate member of FB or a family member of an FB member. Applicants must also demonstrate in an essay how their study focus supports farming.
  - Regular KPFB meetings are held at Knudsen Farms in Sumner.
- **Farm Fish Flood 2.0 (Richard Martin):** The original buffers task force determined recommendations for maximum widths for buffer plantings in the Snoqualmie Valley. The current Buffer Implementation Task Force is identifying minimum buffer widths and landowner participation incentives. Since there is no “one size fits all” for buffers, they are developing site-specific planting flexibility that results in the same ecological benefit. Buffer plantings on private land would still be voluntary. Melissa Borsting with DNRP’s agriculture program is coordinating this task force, which includes farm and fish representatives. A goal is to look at projects on an individual basis and not one set of guidelines to apply everywhere. Anyone interested in the task force should get in touch with Patrice Barrentine. Barrentine noted there is an open invite for anyone interested in serving as subject matter experts (SMEs) for the task force. Nayab and Henna Khan volunteered.

### **New Business: Permitting and Regulatory Support for Agriculture (Eric Beach)**

Eric Beach is a regulatory and permitting specialist with King County’s agriculture program, who provides assistance in these areas to farmers. Beach reviewed related accomplishments for the past year, and goals for the coming year. Beach’s presentation is available to view [here](#).

Beach’s work this past year included: permit exemptions for 400-square-foot commercial agriculture and forestry storage buildings; the drainage project on Griffin Creek which reduced flood risk to several farms; and technical assistance to over 100 landowners. 2023 goals include: updates to building and clearing/grading codes; work on the Integrated Drainage Program; compiling professional services rosters for farmers; and publishing guidance materials.

### **Discussion:**

A concern was raised that while many farmers are looking to navigate the permitting process, they are unaware of the service Beach offers. Beach said awareness of this service is currently being spread by word of mouth and community partners like KCD, the Snoqualmie WID, and Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance (SVPA). Beach asked what a good tool would be to get word out and to refer anyone with permitting and code enforcement issues to him. Matt Mega offered to meet up with Beach to collaborate.

### **Old Business: Commission Planning for 2023, Part 1 (Patrice Barrentine)**

Patrice Barrentine reviewed the 2023 Commission schedule, noting that meetings would continue in the Zoom format in evenings except for one field trip. One change noted is that the Open Public Meetings Act no longer requires meeting notices to be published in the newspaper. In addition to the notices sent out to Commissioners and two newsletters, the agenda for each meeting will now be posted to the Commission website at least 24 hours beforehand. Commission staff will also look further into networking via social media platforms.

Barrentine then reviewed the four existing Commission committees: Field Trip, Land Use, Selection, and Policy/FFF. Of the four, only the Policy/FFF committee ended up convening this year, focusing on the winery, brewery, and distillery (WBD) legislation. Barrentine reviewed the prior memberships and planned focuses for these committees. She noted non-Commissioners may participate in committees, but each committee requires at least one Commissioner and less than a quorum. She advised people should sign up for their interested committees in February and March.

### **Old Business: Commission Planning for 2023, Part 2 (Patrice Barrentine)**

Patrice Barrentine overviewed several broad topics to gauge Commission interest in what to pursue on agendas in 2023.



- **Farmland Preservation in King County:** Barrentine thanked citizen Chenelle Tyack for inspiring the Commission to pursue this issue, and reviewed the approach to discuss this further. Richard Martin said the County needs Commission consultation on strengthening language of County farmland preservation easements. Tyack asked about leveraging entities such as Washington Farmland Trust (WFT) into preservation efforts; Barrentine replied that while this is possible, WFT typically allocates its resources to areas that, unlike King County, do not have a strong farmland preservation program.
- **Policies and Programs:** Barrentine suggested this focus start with inviting the WLRD director to a Commission meeting. She also suggested presentations on agriculture programs such as the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), and the Public Benefit Rating System/Current Use Taxation (PBR/CUT). She also recommended presentations on policies such as the Land Conservation Initiative, Local Food Initiative, KC Comprehensive Plan, and the Snoqualmie Valley APD Agriculture Land Resource Strategic Plan (Agriculture Strategic Plan/ASP).
- **Agriculture Strategic Plan:** The ASP should be ready for Commission review in February. The document summarizes the current conditions for each subtopic presented, then cites the desired conditions and asks if it is applicable to other APDs and areas of the county. Barrentine posed the question of how to put the Commission's weight behind certain strategies. Richard Martin noted everyone present would probably love to see this work leveraged to benefit agriculture elsewhere in the county.
  - **Chapter 1:** This discusses drainage, flood safety, irrigation, transportation, climate change, etc. It was asked if there is a way to capture infrastructure such as farm roads, barns, and worker housing in the ASP. Barrentine answered that roads and bridges are addressed in the plan. Farm worker housing is not because Eric Beach has already published a bulletin in the *Farm Practices Illustrated* compendium covering this topic. However, the Commission can still pursue this further.
  - **Chapter 2:** This discusses population growth/development impacts, wildlife, farmland preservation, and proposed acreage for a long-term viable agriculture sector. It was asked if there is a current inventory of FPP properties and what they're producing, and how going forward the Commission and County can help farmers improve and create a better farming system. Barrentine answered that FPP properties are mapped out, and there is a 2017 land use map showing crops produced. Martin added that WSDA conducts a similar land use survey and this data, along with aerial imagery, could be used to update inventory. He noted this issue is on a priority list to dig deeper into this year.
- **Other Areas of Concern/Interest (Not laid out in ASP):**
  - Barrentine noted this agenda item may be revisited at a future meeting due to the light attendance tonight.
  - She said a field trip would be educational for Commissioners and solicited input on topics and locations. Several present suggested sites that highlight the contrast between farmed/rural and urban zones, such as in the Kent Valley. It was also suggested seeing different buffer sizes in action, and agricultural drainage, would be interesting. Horseneck Farm was suggested to highlight work with BIPOC and diverse populations. Barrentine further proposed a policy-focused field trip with legislators such as KCC, stressing that doing so in the past has prompted much goodwill and good farm legislation passed by policymakers.
  - It was suggested more farmers be involved in policy making. Many are not aware of what's going on around them and there are ways to reach out and improve communication with them. Barrentine agreed, and said this discussion would be pursued further next month. The Commission executive committee may also delve into this at a higher level.

#### Public Comment – General (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)

There was no public comment during this period.

#### Concerns of Commissioners (Kevin Scott-Vandenberg)

**Richard Martin** reminded everyone to complete their USDA census forms, as these are the best source of agriculture data available on a county-specific basis. Anyone with a commercial farm is required to complete these forms. Martin noted many smaller farms are sometimes missed in these censuses; Bee Cha is currently working with the Hmong farming community on this. Martin stressed this census is a critical opportunity to understand what's going on in the county and get information to decision-makers. The forms are due in February.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm**

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#### Next Meeting(s)

February 9, 2023, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Zoom Video Conference Call)

# Legislation, Conferences, Events and Key Dates

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REGARDING KING COUNTY  
*AGRICULTURE*

FEBRUARY 2023



Financial Disclosure Forms 2023

received

Henry

need

# Staff Liaison Admin

- Financial Disclosure Forms
  - Appointments 2022
  - Recruitment 2023

# King County Events and Public Meetings



- <https://www.kingcounty.gov/about/news/events.aspx>
- **Holidays (KC offices closed): February 20, Presidents Day**
- Metropolitan King County Council Meetings every Tuesday



# **Invitation from CM Perry to Brief the LSLU Committee**

**January 11<sup>th</sup> Request**

**Briefings are 10-20 minutes**

**Dates for mtgs available:**

Feb 25

April 25

May 23

June 27

July 25

**Time to coordinate and plan  
presentation by staff and/or  
commissioners**

**Last Ag Commission briefing to Council:**

May 2018



## WA State Legislative Session

- Tracking proposed legislation
- If we do not see a special session, the Legislature could adjourn as early as April 15<sup>th</sup>.



# WASHINGTON SOIL HEALTH WEEK

# SOILCON23

## FEBRUARY 15TH: 8-12 PST



#WASoilCon

FREE: 2-day virtual  
conference  
Events

### Day Two: Taking Principles to Practice

### Cover Cropping and Residue Management

### Academic Roundtable

**Dani Gelardi**  
Senior Soil Scientist  
Washington State Department of Agriculture

**Miguel Cabrera**  
Professor of Soil Science at University of Georgia

**Erin Silva**  
Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at UW-Madison

**Doug Collins**  
Extension Specialist at Washington State University

**Hero Gollany**  
Soil Scientist at USDA-Agricultural Research Service

A free virtual event! Register at [bit.ly/soilcon23reg](https://bit.ly/soilcon23reg)



**February  
24 & 25, 2023**

# WSFMA FARMERS MARKET Conference

- Networking with farmers market peers
- Practical tips, tools, and experience
- Emerging trends and opportunities
- Recharging for the 2023 market season!



## Events

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WASHINGTON STATE  
FARMERS MARKET  
CONFERENCE

[HTTPS://WAFARMERSMARKET  
S.ORG/2023-2/](https://wafarmersmarket.org/2023-2/)





**CONNECTIONS**

A farm-and-sea-to-table  
trade conference serving the  
Puget Sound food community

**MON / FEB 27 / 2023**

**SEATTLE, WA**

Events

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/good-food-connections-tickets-494392089047>

# COMMISSION PLANNING FOR 2023: PART 2

*FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY*



# *FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY*

## *APPROACH FOR DISCUSSION*

- **POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OVERVIEW**
- **OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN/INTEREST**
- **FIELD TRIP TO SEE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND/OR SOLUTIONS**
- **COMMISSION POLICY AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS**
- **POLICY FIELD TRIP**
- **GOALS**

# ***FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY***

- **START WITH POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

- **DIRECTOR OF WATER AND LAND DIVISION INVITE**

- **PRESENTATION OF PROGRAMS**

- **KC FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM (FPP)**

- **KC TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS PROGRAM (TDR)**

- **KC PUBLIC BENEFITS RATING SYSTEM (PBRS) – OPEN SPACE TAX INCENTIVES**

- **PRESENTATION OF POLICIES**

- **LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (LCI)**

- **LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE (LFI)**

- **KC COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

- **SVAPD AGRICULTURE LAND RESOURCE STRATEGIC PLAN**

- **VEHICLE TO DIG INTO EXAMPLES**

- **ELK DAMAGE**

- **POACHERS & TRESPASSING**

# *FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY*

- **START WITH POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**
  - **SVAPD AGRICULTURE LAND RESOURCE STRATEGIC PLAN**
    - **VEHICLE TO DIG INTO FARMLAND PRESERVATION TOPICS**
      - **EXAMPLE: ELK DAMAGE,**
      - **POACHERS & TRESPASSING**

# **FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY**

## **SVAPD AGRICULTURE LAND RESOURCE STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **1.1 DRAINAGE**

1.1.1 DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE FOR ADAP ELIGIBLE WATERWAYS

1.1.2 DRAIN TILES

1.1.3 FLAP GATES, FLOODGATES, AND PUMPS

1.1.4 CULVERTS

1.1.5 DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE FOR NON-ADAP WATERWAYS

1.1.6 BEAVERS

### **1.2 FLOOD SAFETY**

1.2.7 FLOOD SAFETY FOR FARMS: HIGH GROUND REFUGE AND FARM PADS

1.2.8 HOME PRESERVATION IN THE APD

### **1.3 IRRIGATION**

1.3.9 WATER RIGHTS AND IRRIGATION

# ***FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY***

## **SVAPD AGRICULTURE LAND RESOURCE STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **1.4 TRANSPORTATION**

1.4.10 REVETMENTS

1.4.11 TRANSPORTATION AND BRIDGES

### **1.5 CLIMATE CHANGE**

1.5.12 CLIMATE CHANGE PREDICTIONS

1.5.13 INVASIVE SPECIES

# **FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY**

## **SVAPD AGRICULTURE LAND RESOURCE STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **2.1 POPULATION GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS**

2.1.14 POPULATION PRESSURE

2.1.15 EMERGING ISSUES

### **2.2 WILDLIFE**

2.2.16 ELK AND DEER

1.1.16 BEAVERS

### **2.3 FARMLAND PRESERVATION**

2.3.17 FARMLAND PRESERVATION



# ***FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY***

## **SVAPD AGRICULTURE LAND RESOURCE STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **2.4 PROPOSED ACREAGE FOR A LONG-TERM, VIABLE SECTOR**

2.4.18 ACREAGE CHALLENGES, NEEDS  
AND RECOMMENDATION

# **FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY**

## **SVAPD AGRICULTURE LAND RESOURCE STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **CURRENT CONDITION**

**WHAT'S KNOWN IN OTHER AREAS OF THE  
COUNTY?**

### **DESIRED CONDITION**

**IS IT APPLICABLE IN OTHER APDS/AREAS OF  
THE COUNTY?**

### **PLAN AND TIMELINE**

**HOW DO WE PUT THE WEIGHT OF THE  
COMMISSION BEHIND CERTAIN STRATEGIES  
OR TIMELINES IN THE SVAPD**

**AND/OR**

**OTHER APDS/AREAS OF THE COUNTY?**

# ***FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY***

- WHAT ARE OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN/INTEREST YOU'D LIKE TO DELVE INTO?  
(NOT LAID OUT IN THE AG STRATEGIC PLAN)

1. x

# *FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY*

## *EFFECTIVENESS*

- FIELD TRIP
  - EDUCATIONAL FOR COMMISSIONERS: SHOWS ON THE GROUND EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OR SOLUTIONS
    - THINGS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE AND LOCATIONS?
      1. X

# ***FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY***

## ***EFFECTIVENESS***

- COMMISSION POLICY AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS
- REINFORCE WITH POLICY FIELD TRIP?

# ***FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY***

## ***COMMISSION POLICY AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS***

### **CURRENT CONDITION**

**WHAT'S KNOWN IN OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTY?**

### **DESIRED CONDITION**

**IS IT APPLICABLE IN OTHER APDS/AREAS OF THE COUNTY?**

### **PLAN AND TIMELINE**

**HOW DO WE PUT THE WEIGHT OF THE COMMISSION BEHIND CERTAIN STRATEGIES OR TIMELINES IN THE SVAPD**

**AND/OR**

**OTHER APDS/AREAS OF THE COUNTY?**

# *FOCUS: FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY*

## **GOALS FOR THIS WORK?**

**1. x**

# *FOCUS:* FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN KING COUNTY

- **WHAT'S MISSING?**
- **FURTHER DISCUSSION**
- **NEXT STEPS**