



**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**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**Zoom Video Conference Call**

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

**Meeting Summary**

- **Actions: Approval of Agenda; Updates from Patrice Barrentine, Matt Mega, Leann Krainick, and Richard Martin; Information from the FSA from Kaitlin Davies; Motion passed for a letter regarding non-agricultural events in APDs; Updates re: 2023-0310 (minimum wage increase); BESS Legislation summary; Officer Elections completed.**

***Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Darron Marzolf at 6:02 pm (no quorum); quorum at 6:15 pm***

**Roll Call/Announcement of Staff & Public (Darron Marzolf)**

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

**ACTION: Approval of Meeting Agenda (Darron Marzolf)**

Moved by Janet Keller, seconded by Leann Krainick, and passed unanimously.

**ACTION: Approval of Meeting Minutes (Darron Marzolf)**

Moved by Leann Krainick, seconded by Stacey Smith, and passed unanimously.

**Public Comment – Specific Agenda Item (Darron Marzolf)**

There was no public comment at this time.

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

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

Patrice Barrentine went over updates related to financial disclosure forms (all but one was submitted, deadline is 4/15), policy updates (The Comprehensive Plan updates with best available science), events (Noxious Weeds webinar series, highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy herds in other states), and funding opportunities (Local Food System Infrastructure Grants).

**King Conservation District (Matt Mega)**

Matt Mega gave updates on the incentive program projects (both riparian projects and forest projects are ramping up) and let the commission know that KCD will try to renew the ILA agreement with King County this year.

<https://kingcd.org/rate-renewal/>

**King-Pierce Farm Bureau (Leann Krainick)**

Leann Krainick gave more details on the avian flu information, gave updates regarding the Farm Bureau scholarship, a candidate evaluation committee, and an event to support the youth/future agricultural leaders.

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

Richard Martin gave updates on the agriculture program focused on helping new farmers and historically underserved farmers through a USDA grant, which the grant agreement was executed. He also gave updates regarding challenges in Farm, Fish, Flood, a letter for the Executive on the buffer implementation task force and the agricultural strategic plan, and a new member of the IOC along with a member rotating off the IOC.

**New Business: FSA Registration and Programs (Kaitlin Davies)**

Kaitlin Davies is the outreach coordinator for Washington State Farm Service Agency. She used to be the county executive director for Pierce and Lewis County, as well as Clark County. As the outreach coordinator, she tries to increase program participation. She is also the beginning Farmer Coordinator for FSA and for NRCS.

FSA is keeping an eye on the avian flu issue, which there is funding available to take care of livestock that have died from the flu. King County is now being served out of the Puyallup office for FSA unless they opted to stay with Mount Vernon. The website farmers.gov now has more offerings, including applying and paying for farm loans with FSA, viewing farm maps which can help with acreage reports, and the ability to view and sign NRCS conservation documents. The dairy margin coverage deadline is at the end of the month and people should start doing acreage reports. Kaitlin also discusses signing up for NAP (noninsured crop disaster assistance program), in which people need to apply and sign up for it before putting seeds in the ground. Kaitlin provides links to webinars regarding the FSA's programs and answers questions from commission members regarding farmer participation (tying it to other programs to get more participation) and what information gets shared (maps are shared with NRCS, otherwise information is requested)

Links

<https://www.farmers.gov/>

[https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/emergency-relief-program/pdfs/ccc860\\_20230111.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/emergency-relief-program/pdfs/ccc860_20230111.pdf)

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Washington/webinars/washington-state-webinars>

**ACTION/Old Business: Large Events on Farmland in APDs (Stacey Smith, Henna Khan, Jessi Bloom, Andrew Ely, Patrice Barrentine)**

After last month's meeting, the committee met and brainstormed added to the bullet points so that staff could draft a letter. The commission advises a moratorium on non-ag activities proposed in temporary use permits (TUPs) and conditional use permits (CUPs) in the APDs ad A-zoned properties until DLS Permitting's code updates for enforcement are adopted by Council, as there are concerns for the agricultural economy impacts, environmental impacts, and transportation. The commission discussed clearer language for the letter, advising for a moratorium on processing the applications for new non-ag activities.

Leann Krainick made the motion that if the letter is not able to be transmitted within 10 business days, as it includes copies to King County Council and the Executive, then those individuals will be withdrawn from the letter, and it will be transmitted to all others copied. This motion was seconded by Andrew Ely, then unanimously passed.

**Old Business: Proposed Ordinance 2023-0310 (Patrice Barrentine)**

The letter approved last month was sent to council the day of this meeting (4/11/24). Executive Office (EO) understands the importance of the advisory recommendations to the Ag Commission. EO will separately convey that housing in KC campgrounds isn't a DNRP/Exec recommendation. The latest amendment includes a study of impacts to the agriculture sector to be completed by quarter 4 and is on the Transportation, Economy, and Environment Committee's Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> agenda under Discussion and Possible Action. Section 16 was added to the ordinance, addressing the concerns of the commission.

See presentation online.

### **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Legislation (Patrice Barrentine)**

Councilmember Perry amended the original proposal to remove maximum size requirement and put other protections in place with King County special use permits the highest level of scrutiny the permitting division has. A SUP would require review each proposal on a case basis to ensure and would be able to deny a permit if it isn't consistent with the comprehensive plan's goals or place conditions and requirements on the permit to mitigate impacts on agriculture, soil, or other factors. Additionally, a SUP needs to be approved by the Permitting Division (Executive Branch) and the Hearing Examiner (Legislative Branch). Agricultural accessory uses cannot exceed one acre per state law, so anything larger than an acre must go through the SUP process.

Accessory-use Battery Energy Storage Sites with a total of two Megawatts or less, which are established for primarily on-site use are Permitted in all zones where accessory uses are allowed. Non-accessory use BESS of any size, which are established for primarily off-site use are Permitted under conditional use permits (required in Urban Residential/R zones), special use permits (required in Agricultural/A and Forest/F zones) and permitted use in all other zones. Vendor permit application for a BESS must only demonstrate a financial surety of at least \$1 million to cover damages from a fire or explosion if the BESS is more than two Megawatts, it doesn't mitigate thermal runaway, and the individual room/cabinet/container/other enclosure containing the system has an energy rating greater than two megawatt-hours, or any two enclosures are less than 10 feet apart and the BESS is within 100 feet of buildings, lot lines, public ways, stored combustible materials, hazardous materials, high-piled stock, or other exposure hazards. Vendor permit application for a BESS greater than two Megawatts would be required to submit a decommissioning plan, demonstrate financial responsibility to carry out the plan, and share fire and evacuation plans required by state law with the local fire protection district. All BESS sites and sizes would be subject to the standard setbacks in each zone, including the standard setbacks for nonresidential uses in the R, RA, and UR zones except when BESS for accessory use would be allowed in a street setback, if used solely to supply electricity for electric-vehicle-charging infrastructure also within the setback or adjacent right-of-way, and BESS wouldn't be allowed to extend into interior setbacks. The County Executive would be required to consult with representatives of the energy industry, emergency response community, renewable energy industry, labor, and state and local governments to assist in developing the report.

See presentation online.

### **Officer Elections (Darron Marzolf)**

Stacey Smith was nominated as Chair and Jessi Bloom was nominated for Vice Chair for 2024 (April 15-December 2024). Leann Krainick moved to elect Stacey Smith as Chair and Jessi Bloom as Vice Chair. Darron Marzolf seconded this motion and was unanimously approved.

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

There was no public comment during this period.

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

Leann Krainick voiced some concerns regarding the Local Food Initiative and requested an update as soon as possible.

***Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm***

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

May 9, 2024, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Zoom Video Conference Call)