



King County
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King County Agriculture Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 11, 2024 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Zoom Video Conference Call

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

Meeting Summary

- **Actions: Approval of Agenda, May Meeting Minutes, and Kevin as an ex-officio member representing the Ag Commission for the Local Food Initiative’s Food System Advisory Council.**
- **Tasks**
 - **Patrice will get back to the Selection Committee about the timeline for the recruitment process**
 - **Matt Mega and Jessi Bloom will further discuss KCD rate renewals**
 - **Matt Mega will provide info to the Ag Commission**
 - **Patrice will provide materials for a support letter regarding rate renewals.**

Meeting called to order by Chair Stacey Smith at 6:01 pm with quorum

Roll Call/Announcement of Staff & Public (Stacey Smith)

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

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Agenda (Stacey Smith)

Moved by Janet Keller seconded by Kevin Scott and passed unanimously.

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Minutes (Stacey Smith)

This was approving meeting minutes from May. Moved by Darron Marzolf, seconded by Janet Keller, and passed unanimously.

Public Comment – Specific Agenda Item (Stacey Smith)

There was no public comment at this time.

Old Business: Committee Updates (Patrice Barrentine)

Field Trip: Darron Marzolf shared news that they passed their USDA inspection, which will help the local farmers in the area. An invitation from Patrice will be sent to RSVP for the Grand Opening of the USDA Meat Processing Facility at Marzolf Meats, culminating 10 years of King County, farmer, and processor partnerships. This event is sponsored by the Ag Commission, with John Taylor and Council Member Perry speaking. WSDA, Mike Lufkin, Patrice, Darron and Christena Marzolf will also be speaking. Patrice says thanks to everyone who contributed to this project and the event

will take place next Thursday. Some former Ag Commissioners have been invited to this event as well. If there are any other people Ag Commissioners want to invite, let Patrice know as soon as possible.

Selection Committee: Priorities have been set; the committee is a little behind on launching recruitment but should be back on track in the next week or so. Janet Keller needs to confirm if she will be having another term as a commissioner or if her seat will need to be filled. For the recruitment process, there is a need to have diverse skillsets and representation. There was a discussion on what each of the skillset categories meant, discussion over geographic diversity, and expertise required for commissioners to have. Janet mentions that having the commission meetings on zoom make representation for this recruitment much easier. In terms of identity diversity, Patrice links information on specific race/ethnicity and gender definitions. There were also some supplemental questions in regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion, which will help get to the heart of building a good team of commissioners.

Jessi Bloom adds that there should be a question about intentions/goals of joining the commission. She asks if there will be links to help with the search, which Patrice says yes to both. The timeline for this will change due to being behind, which Patrice will get back to the Selection Committee on.

King Conservation District (Jessi Bloom, Matt Mega, Patrice Barrentine)

Jessi is the newest board supervisor for KCD, being in an appointed position for three years, also representing the Ag Commission. However, they need a new representative from the commission.

Patrice asks Matt Mega about adding another commissioner to represent in KCD, would it be best for a commissioner to be on the advisory board or in some other program? KCD is looking as to how to strengthen the advisory board, and he thinks it's a great opportunity. Jessi Bloom and Matt Mega will meet at some point to discuss?

Mike mentions that the interlocal agreement between the conservation district and county identifies a member of the Ag Commission as a part of the advisory committee.

Jessi mentions the meetings are interesting, but the timing is the challenging for her. She feels that she can't represent the Ag Commission due to that challenge. Matt talks about what the potential role of the Ag Commissioner(s) can be within KCD.

Rate Renewal (Richard Martin, Matt Mega)

Matt Mega presented rate renewals in the last commission meeting. The Ag Commission should look at the Agriculture Programming in KCD and decide if they want to send a letter indicating continuing to support programs they do.

It will be submitted to council for consideration in the fall, taking effect in 2025. There's time to think about it. KCD is sending something to the executive? They're hoping early fall/fall to do this.

Matt can provide info to the Ag Commission for context and background.

Stacey Smith, Janet Keller showed support for creating a support letter. Patrice will prepare the materials.

New Business: Introducing New DNR Director, John Taylor!

John Taylor introduces himself to the commission, talking about his career and involvement within King County. He discusses the significant impact the Ag Commission has had and how the County and the ag community have worked hard to keep farmlands productive, especially so close to a metropolitan area. He praises the work ethic of farmers. He mentions how heartening it is to see how the Ag Commission operates now, especially in expanding perspectives, thinking about priorities, etc. He looks forward to seeing what else the Ag Commission will do and if people want to reach out to talk about any concerns, he's open.

ACTION/Local Food Initiative (Mike Lufkin)

In May, Mike gave an overview of the LFI refresh. He's giving an update on work since then- specifically stakeholder engagement and the Food Systems Advisory Council (FSAC). Kevin may be joining the FSAC.

Mike gives a presentation on this refresh. There's a need for sectoral diversity, geographic diversity, and more within this council. He shares a list of the FSAC members and information on what they do. In terms of updates, they hired an engagement partner (Withinsight Consulting). They also started doing stakeholder mapping and have been identifying

priority stakeholders. Next steps are continuing feedback from FSAC, NVA and Withinsight Consulting codesigning the community engagement strategy, and refining questions for engagement.

See presentation online.

Darron asks about plans for community engagement- especially for engaging many people. Mike says they will use different tools, reaching people through different means (surveys, events, meeting people where they are, etc.)

Kevin got to sit in on LFI meetings and would like to continue doing so for the commission and LFI.

Motion to support Kevin as ex-officio member of the FSAC group: moved by Janet Keller, seconded by Henna Khan, passed unanimously. Kevin can start to share stuff about the engagement strategy starting in the September commission meeting.

Meeting Minutes Research (Lyn Tampi)

Lyn Tampi, the intern/temporary worker, gave a presentation on how other commissions, committees, and advisory boards in King County do their meeting minutes and gave recommendations. The main recommendations are including a list of tasks, being more concise, and having people provide a summary of updates before the meeting to reduce workload for whoever is taking notes.

See presentation online.

Updates (Patrice Barrentine, Matt Mega, Leann Krainick, Richard Martin) Commission Details, Policy, Ag Education & Events (Patrice Barrentine)

Policy updates

- Advisory letter protocol: continuing to finalize this, should be ready by September's commission meeting.
- Ordinance 19762 (Proposed Substitute Ordinance 2023-0310.2) sets a minimum wage of \$20.29 in unincorporated King County. Amendment 4 indicates providing recommendations to strengthen support towards the ag sector in unincorporated King County.
- KCC Budget and Fiscal Management Committee 7/10 Meeting: Striking Amendment S1 would add or restrict \$250,000 for DNRP to complete the report required in Ordinance 19762
- BESS Proposed Ordinance 2023-0263, KCC Local Services and Land Use Committee 7/17 meeting (9:30am hybrid): working on language that is more in line with some of the concerns raised by the commission. Commissioners can testify if they'd like (as commissioners or just as members of the public). There was no action taken for the Ag Commission to testify.
- Farm King County website revision: will need commissioners' input on using the website.

Events

- WSDA Ag Viability and Competitive Conference in May: Mike Lufkin and Patrice Barrentine attended, Patrice presenting on two panels.
- Written update provided by Jim Chan. DLS Permitting Director and read by Patrice Barrentine.
 - o Remlinger Farms: enforcement case is still pending. An agreement would set a timeline for all cited violations to be legally permitted/removed.
 - o BrodieNation Music Festival: holding events without required permit, noncompliance order. Appeal deadline is 7/22/24.
 - o Carnation Farms: permitting received written confirmation that they no longer will pursue a TUP for expanded events. They will allow smaller events though.

See presentation online.

King County Ag Program (Richard Martin)

There's an offer in place to fill the Permitting Regulatory Specialist position. DNRP just signed a contract with Highline college's Sustainable Ag Program. There's a pilot project close to launching- protecting farmland infrastructure while renewing land use (example: salmon habitat). They are working to move certain structures rather than demolishing them.

King Conservation District (Matt Mega)

They are looking to hire a new Americorps Intern, helping with the community gardens and other related items. They did a farm tour, highlighting the discovery farms works, wrapping up a research project. A new field technician was hired to help Liz Stockton. Liz is also looking at two new drain tile projects to do this year. There are three new cover crop projects going forward, some helpful and some spendy, being in the \$20,000 range that they help provide cover crop for folks in the fall. There are also two new waste storage facilities that have been approved.

Public Comment – General (Stacey Smith)

There was no public comment during this period.

Concerns of Commissioners (Stacey Smith)

Andrew Ely asked about updates from King County's lawsuit with Friends of Sammamish Valley and the Adult Beverage Ordinance (there has not been any legislative action seen regarding this topic). Janet Keller will follow up with Richard about employee housing and the amendment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm

Next Meeting(s)

September 12, 2024, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Zoom Video Conference Call)