

## **Pierce County Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2019**

Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 6:30pm-8pm

Allmendinger Center, WSU Puyallup Extension and Research Center  
2606 W Pioneer Ave, Puyallup, WA 98371

### **Attendance**

Committee members:

Carrie Little – Little Eorthe Farm, Becky Weed – Harlow Cattle Company, David Schactler – Eatonville Nursery, Paul Mosby – Mosby Brothers, Ken Scholz – Snowshoe Evergreen, Dan Picha – Picha Farms, Tim Curtis - Sterino Farms (alternate for Jake Sterino), Dan Hulse – Tahoma Farms, Jim Kropf – WSU-Pierce County Extension Director, Councilmember Pam Roach – Pierce County Council.

Dan Muir – Coordinator, Pierce County Agriculture Advisory Committee  
Hugh Taylor - Office of Pierce County Council

### **Speakers:**

Jim Kropf, Doug Collins – Washington State University

### **Members of the public:**

Jerome O’Leary – Snowshoe Evergreen, Judy Hurley – Assistant to Councilmember Dave Morell and a Drainage District 19 Commissioner, Amy Cruver – Assistant to Councilmember Jim McCune and Drainage District 13 Commissioner, Sarah Wilcox – Farming in the Floodplains project, Alison Nichols – Pierce Conservation District.

### **Meeting**

Carrie Little, Committee Chair, welcomed all to the meeting.

**Motion:** Mr. Scholz made a motion to accept the July meeting minutes. Ms. Weed seconded. All voted yes, none opposed. Motion passes to approve July minutes.

**Motion:** Mr. Schactler made a motion to approve the August agenda. Mr. Curtis seconded. All voted yes, none opposed. Motion passes to approve the August agenda.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Chair’s Report**

Ms. Little announced the new Pierce County hire for the Agriculture Planner position is Mike Poteet. Ms. Little read Mr. Poteet’s bio to the committee.

### **Coordinator’s Report**

Mr. Muir reported that the Pierce County Council Passed ORDINANCE NO. 2019-36, An Ordinance of the Pierce County Council Adopting Amendments to Title 18A of the Pierce County Code, "Development Regulations – Zoning," to Support the Continued Viability of Agriculture in Pierce County; Adopting Findings of Fact; and Setting an Effective Date.

Many of the amendments adopted in the Ordinance came from suggestions from the Agriculture Advisory Committee. This is another example of the County Council moving forward Resolutions or Ordinances that the Committee has recommended or made comments on. The Ag Advisory Committee can feel that, through its efforts and the efforts of the County Council, it has had some success in addressing issues that impact farming in Pierce County.

#### **WSU - Puyallup agriculture program – Jim Kropf, Doug Collins**

Mr. Kropf presented general information on the WSU system and the Puyallup Campus. The WSU-Pierce County office currently has 22 people (including Master Gardener program, nutrition, 4-H and stormwater specialist). WSU-Puyallup competes for funding with other major initiatives of the WSU system.

There is currently no WSU funding for the WSU agriculture extension agent in Pierce County. The position was historically funded 2/3<sup>rd</sup> by WSU and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> by Pierce County. Pierce County has maintained its funding for the position. There was a general discussion on WSU funding. Individuals can talk to lobbyist's or lobby themselves for increased funding from WSU to hire Extension Agents.

Mr. Collins presented the work that he is involved with on organic farming systems and nutrient management. This includes composting, cover crops, organic amendments, etc. Also, tries to engage through outreach events.

Councilwoman Roach mentioned that there is money available in the Council budget that could possibly be used on a WSU farm research summer intern. Mr. Collins should follow up with Councilwoman Roach for more information.

#### **Pierce County Ag Planner**

Ms. Little and Mr. Muir plan to meet with Mike Poteet to discuss the Ag Advisory Committee. Other members are encouraged to meet with Mr. Poteet individually at their farm properties to discuss their specific issues.

#### **Old business**

Mr. Taylor reported that the steering committee for the Agriculture Drainage Task Force will meet next week to begin the planning for launching the Task Force.

Mr. Muir reported that at the July committee meeting the committee made a motion for him to draft a letter for the Chair's approval. The letter requests that Pierce County have its lobbyist include agriculture as an import issue to lobby for in Olympia. The letter was approved and submitted to the County Council and County Executive.

Ms. Little report that a "check in" meeting will be scheduled with County Executive Dammeier to keep him informed on Ag Advisory Committee work completed and ongoing issues impacting agriculture.

Mr. Curtis reported on legislation that is coming up that will impact farm labor wages and hours. This will have a great impact on many farms. The committee will want to monitor this closely.

#### **Meeting adjourned**