

MEETING SUMMARY

Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Held 04/11/07

Agriculture Service Center
6975 Hannegan Rd
(NRCS OFFICE)
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Members present: Chuck Antholt, Todd Jones, Russell Simonson and Susan Kirsch. Staff: Kraig Olason, PDS; Linda Peterson, PDS; Becky Boxx; PDS. Guests: Justin Mosiman; Craig MacConnell, Coop. Ext. and Henry Bierlink, APC.

1. Review of minutes.

No quorum. The minutes for the 12-06-06, 01-31-07 and 02-14-07 meetings will be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting.

2. APO Amendments

Kraig distributed the supplemental staff report that was reviewed by the Planning Commission at their meeting on March 22nd. He stated there were several comments on the siting criteria proposed in the report. There were also several comments on the "Right to Farm Covenant". The Building Industry Association (BIA) did not like the term "covenant".. The BIA also had comments regarding clustering, the olds rules pertaining to septic systems, wells, etc. Kraig stated staff met with the BIA after the Planning Commission with their concerns and the proposal is in limbo until some of the issues are worked out.

Craig suggested there be a total review of the APO. The BIA was on board with the APO when it was being developed several years ago.

The Committee discussed the possibility of zoning changes for all the APO designated lands in lieu of APO and what compensation there would be for that.

Susan and Chuck volunteered to do some more in depth work on the issue.

3. 2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Kraig distributed the docket of amendments staff will be looking at this year and summarized the items that may affect agricultural lands. All of the city urban growth areas are docketed for their 10 year review. The Parks Plan may have a financial impact as they compete for the same money. Other items include a rezone from AG to RF on Saxon Road, a rezone from AG to the Lynden UGA and Concurrency Management. The Committee stated they would like to see the staff reports and have time to comment on them before the Planning Commission hearings.

4. Agricultural Land Work Program Update

Kraig stated that things will not be moving forward very quickly because the Planning Department has lost staff. The PDR program is one of the items he is working on that takes a lot of staff time.

Henry stated more resources are needed and he will make some proposals to the County. Perhaps consultants could do the work. These programs are needed and need to get put into place.

Kraig stated a Technical Review Committee has been identified.

The Committee discussed the calendar for the year. It was decided the next regular meeting will be October 3, 2007. There will probably be a need for a meeting before that time to discuss the APO issue and the possibility of other issues related to the Ag work program.

Todd raised the issue that the lack of a quorum has been an ongoing problem. Chuck will call the members to see why they are not showing up at the meetings.

Next meeting: October 3, 2007 at 3:00PM.

Signed,

Chuck Antholt, Chair