

RESOLUTION NO. 011 -2026

ESTABLISHING A KITSAP COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, agriculture is an important segment of Kitsap County's economy, helping to educate and feed our community, providing much needed jobs and income to families and individuals, maintaining rural character, and preserving rural land from development pressures;

WHEREAS, the U.S Department of Agriculture's 2022 Census of Agriculture indicates that agriculture in Kitsap County brings more than \$13.5 million of products to the markets annually and that 570 farms with 9,539 acres of land in farms are in operations in the county;

WHEREAS, Kitsap County established the Kitsap County Food and Farm Policy Council in 2009 to "advise on issues of a vibrant food system that supports healthy people, communities, economies, and environment;" however, after several iterations, the group was dissolved in 2016 due to lack of staffing resources and diminished interest;

WHEREAS, it is essential that the Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners and Kitsap County staff receive input from members of the agriculture community regarding the development of the local agricultural economy and policies, regulations, and incentives that may significantly affect commercial agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners wishes to establish a council to provide a venue for the agricultural community to provide input to the Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners and Kitsap County staff.

NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED by Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners:

Section 1. The Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners (Board) finds that agriculture is an important segment of Kitsap County's economy and it is appropriate and necessary to establish a Kitsap County Agriculture Council (Council) to ensure the Board and Kitsap County staff are well informed on issues of significance to the agricultural community. The Council will provide recommendations to the Board and Kitsap County staff on issues impacting agriculture in Kitsap County and will provide a forum for those interested in enhancing and promoting the long-term success of agriculture in Kitsap County. Specifically, the Council is requested to provide advice and recommendations on the following issues:

- A. Rural and Resource Lands Chapter components of the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan, and policies and strategies within the plan affecting agriculture or rural land use;
- B. Regulations affecting agricultural operations or production;

- C. County preparation and response to proposed legislation at the state level affecting agriculture in Kitsap County;
- D. The Rural Lands Analysis, including strategies to sustain farming;
- E. How a proposed Working Lands & Agriculture Overlay might support farming operations;
- F. How agritourism can engage the public and enhance farm viability, while addressing potential impacts and clarifying ambiguities in existing code;
- G. Land use compatibility strategies to maintain harmonious coexistence between farms and neighboring uses, including mitigating development impact on agriculture;
- H. Complaints from the community related to agriculture, livestock operations, development pressures, or regulatory ambiguities;
- I. Other matters of agricultural policies which may be referred by the Board, or as may be raised by the Council.

Section 2. The Kitsap Agriculture Advisory Council shall consist of eleven voting members as follows:

- A. Farmer – Agricultural producer, District 1;
- B. Farmer – Agricultural producer, District 2;
- C. Farmer – Agricultural producer, District 3;
- D. Farmer – Livestock, District 1;
- E. Farmer – Livestock, District 2;
- F. Farmer – Livestock, District 3;
- G. Agricultural Specialist, District 1;
- H. Agricultural Specialist, District 2;
- I. Agricultural Specialist, District 3;
- J. Youth representative, for example 4H, FFA, etc.;
- K. Youth representative, for example 4H, FFA, etc.

“Farmer – Agriculture producer” includes persons with demonstrated knowledge, experience and interest in forages and sod, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, grasses, trees, fiber, freshwater fish, apiaries, and/or flowers.

“Farmer – Livestock” includes persons with demonstrated knowledge, experience and interest in horses, bovine, sheep, goats, swine, reindeer, donkeys, mules, llamas and any other hoofed animal, large and small (small being one hundred fifty pounds or less), poultry, and/or ratites (e.g., emu).

“Agriculture Specialist” includes persons with demonstrated knowledge, experience and interest in value-added food production, animal nutrition/feed production, wholesale and retail marketing, produce buying, direct marketing, supply and finance, agricultural real estate, veterinarians, etc. This position can also be a farmer and/or an agricultural educator.

“Youth Representation” includes persons of high school or college age with demonstrated experience, interest, and/or education in any of the topics listed above.

All Council members shall be residents of Kitsap County or be active agricultural producers operating in Kitsap County. Vacancies occurring on the Council shall be filled in the same manner as originally designated.

Other subject-matter experts may join sub-committees formed to address planning or policy efforts, but who are not Commissioner-appointed, from organizations such as Mason-Kitsap County Farm Bureau, Kitsap Public Health District, Kitsap Environmental Coalition, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, etc.

Section 3. The Kitsap County Agriculture Advisory Council shall annually designate a chair and vice-chair to facilitate its meetings. The Council shall also comply with the following requirements:

- A. Meetings of the Council shall be open to the public in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.
- B. A majority of the voting membership of the Council must be present for the Council to meet, make recommendations, and otherwise conduct its business. No meeting shall be conducted, action taken, nor testimony accepted unless a majority of the voting membership is present.
- C. Meetings of the Council shall generally be guided by the latest revised version of Robert’s Rules of Order. The Council may adopt additional operating procedures for conducting business; provided such procedure does not conflict with State statutes, County resolutions or ordinances.
- D. The Council shall keep, review, approve, and publish meeting minutes, a summary of its transactions of business and meetings.
- E. The Council shall meet in person at least six times per year, including no fewer than one meeting per quarter.
- F. The Council may establish subcommittees as needed to examine specific issues. All recommendations from such subcommittees shall be presented to the full Council for concurrence prior to submittal to the Board. Subcommittee rules and procedures are the same as for the Council.
- G. The meeting location shall be determined by the Council, shall be accessible to the public in accordance with law, and be posted to the Council’s website at least 7 days prior to the meeting.
- H. At least once each year, the Council will submit to the Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners and Kitsap County staff an annual work plan to prioritize work and an annual report to advise on agricultural policy issues and recommendations of the Council.

Section 4. The Kitsap County Agriculture Advisory Council is requested to conduct its first meeting by March 1, 2026, and shall sunset on December 31, 2027, or as determined by subsequent Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners’ action.

Section 5. Administrative and staff support for the Council shall be provided by Kitsap County Department of Community Development, Washington State University Kitsap Extension, and Kitsap Conservation District. Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners staff will support coordination with the Board.

DATED this 26 day of Jan, 2026

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



ORAN ROOT, Chair

KATHERINE T. WALTERS, Commissioner

Dana Daniels, Clerk of the Board

CHRISTINE ROLFES, Commissioner