

Kitsap County Agriculture Advisory Council

Regular Meeting

Date: May 28th, 2026

Time: 5pm – 7:15pm

Location: Eagles Nest Community Room, 1195 Fairgrounds Rd NW, Bremerton

Members Present:

Dawn Oien (Chair), Gary Winn (Vice Chair), Mira Rosenkotz, Angela Cordiano, Scott Hall, Karissa Holcombe

Members Absent: Tonya Hirtzel, Mickey Centeno

Staff Present: Heather Cleveland, Department of Community Development (DCD)
Diane Fish, Kitsap Conservation District (KCD), Jess Sappington (WSU)

Public Present: Members of the public were present – Jeremy Anunson (Woodpecker Hill Farm), Miles Paden (South Kitsap FFA member)

Call meeting to Order

Chair called the meeting to order.

- Welcome and Introductions
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda

Gary moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Angie and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Scott moved to approve the March 26, 2026, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Karissa and passed unanimously.

Public Comment (3 minutes/per person)

The Council received public comment from Jeremy Anunson (Woodpecker Hill Farms), who also submitted written comments. He emphasized the importance of supporting long-term farm success and encouraging producer involvement in policy development. He recommended considering monthly and hybrid meetings to improve participation.

Council discussion included a question on how the public may submit comments without attending meetings and applicable submission timelines. Heather will look into options.

Old Business

Bylaws

The Council reviewed the draft bylaws during the March meeting. The County Attorney provided feedback, and DCD administrative staff met with the Chair and Vice Chair to incorporate revisions. Staff presented an overview of the edits, which reflect prior Council discussions and legal review. A summary of major changes is documented in the attached 2026-Bylaw edit summary.

Karissa moved to recommend approval of the bylaws to the Board of County Commissioners. Gary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment:

Karissa moved to revise Section 1 (Membership) to align with the establishing resolution, with updated language stating: "Membership will consist of one Farmer – Agricultural Producer, Farmer – Livestock, and Agricultural Specialist for each commissioner district." Gary seconded the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Scott moved to approve the amended bylaws for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. Angela seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Operational Guidelines

The Council reviewed proposed updates to the Operational Guidelines. Staff provided an overview of revisions, which reflect prior Council discussions and County Attorney feedback. A summary of major edits is documented in the attached 2026-Operating Guidelines edit summary.

Scott moved to approve the Operational Guidelines for the Kitsap County Agricultural Council. Gary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2026 Work Plan

The Council reviewed the draft 2026 Work Plan, which is organized by topic and priority level. Staff noted that certain items, including farmstand definitions and equestrian code, were previously uncertain, but now have been resolved or in process; the Council

discussed removing these items while retaining broader agricultural code updates in anticipation of future work.

Council discussion addressed implementation of the work plan and the Council's role in supporting annual DCD code revision processes. Members emphasized the importance of providing stakeholder input, particularly on anticipated updates like the agritourism section of code. The inclusion of an "Emergent Topics" agenda item was also included on the agenda moving forward to allow timely consideration of new issues.

Councilmembers noted the need to clarify existing code language related to agritourism and events, including permitting processes, and discussed the potential use of subcommittees to further evaluate specific topics. It was noted that Councilmembers may lead subcommittee efforts on approved work plan topics.

The Council proposed the following revisions to the draft work plan:

- Replace header "Activities" with "Topics"
- Remove comments from the Regulations topic, Equestrian Code and Farm stand definition.
- Revise the Agritourism topic to: "Assess how agritourism and agricultural events can engage the public and enhance farm viability, while addressing potential impacts and clarifying ambiguities and definitions in existing code."

Gary moved to approve the 2026 Work Plan with revisions to Item 2. Mira seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Youth Applications

The Council received two youth applications that were forwarded to the BOCC from Kylie Denton – North Kitsap, and Miles Paden - South Kitsap. The appointment resolution is on the Board of County Commissioners' Regular Meeting agenda on June 8, 2026. Miles was in-person at the council meeting. He is part of the South Kitsap FFA chapter. Has been involved in agriculture all his life.

New Business

Rural Lands Analysis

Heather (DCD) presented an overview of the Rural Lands Analysis. She noted that, as part of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update, the Rural and Resource Lands chapter was

reintroduced and gaps in data were identified. In response to development pressures in rural areas, a Rural Lands Analysis project was initiated in January 2026. A grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce, focused on salmon recovery, has supported additional staffing to assist with this work.

The Council will be engaged in the process, particularly regarding land use considerations, working lands, and potential agricultural overlay development.

Heather outlined next steps, including a July presentation to the Council on existing agricultural conditions and considerations for a potential agricultural zone. The Council will have an opportunity to provide feedback at that time, which will inform the development of the analysis framework anticipated for completion in August.

Mechanisms for stakeholder input include the Agricultural Council (working lands), a forestry stakeholder group led by Parks staff, and a Salmon Technical Advisory Committee.

The project is expected to lead to policy recommendations in 2027.

During discussion, Scott suggested including historical context on the development of working agricultural lands in Kitsap County as part of the analysis.

Agritourism

The [WA State Agritourism Report](#) was included in the agenda. Staff noted that the report contains sample language for counties to consider.

The Council discussed the potential for forming a subcommittee to develop recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners. This item may be brought forward for further discussion under *Good of the Order*.

BOCC Update - None

Staff Update

Farmstand director's interpretation was published and is now available on the county website:

<https://www.kitsap.gov/dcd/CodeInterpretations/T17%20-%20DI%20Farm%20Stand.pdf>

Note: Christina Mayfield resigned from the council (Central Kitsap). There are two other applicants from the Central Kitsap district who have been reached out to. Tonya Hirtzel accepted the appointment but has not responded or come to a meeting yet.

North Kitsap location needed for the next meeting. Angela will connect with Heather about a few potential locations.

WA Legislative Update [HB 2616](#) – 2025-26 “State Farm Bill” - be aware of and read bill analysis.

Good of the order

Diane provided updates, noting that agriculture is now being included in a state task force addressing drought. <https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/washington-water-future>

Puget Sound Regional Clean Air Agency will begin a rulemaking process to update outdoor burning regulations. While agricultural burning would remain allowed, the definition would be more limited. Public outreach, including virtual workshops, is anticipated in late June, followed by a formal public comment period. The updated rule is expected to take effect in January 2028. <https://pscleanair.gov/723/Upcoming-Rulemaking-for-Residential-Yard>

Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Habitat Strategic Initiative Leads (HSIL) allocate funding for a variety of projects including farmland conservation. Kitsap’s LIO West Sound Partnership for Salmon Recover coordinate grants from HSIL and focus on salmon recovery – but preservation of working lands / agricultural land is a strategic priority for watershed health and salmon habitat. The Ag Advisory can recommend grant priorities include farmland preservation funding when Kitsap County applies for funding <https://westsoundpartners.org/wsper-grant-round/>

Karissa inquired whether the Council may provide a public stance or public comment as a group on external matters affecting agriculture and rural lands. It was clarified that any formal statement from the Council must be approved through an official Council action during a meeting.

Gary moved to form a temporary subcommittee to address agritourism (2026 Plan of Work, Item 2). Scott seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Gary, Scott, and Angie volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Members not present may opt in by June 5. The subcommittee will coordinate its initial meeting and provide updates to the Council at future meetings.

Public Comment - None

Adjourn Meeting

Scott moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary. There being no discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 23rd 2026 – North Kitsap (Location TBD)

DRAFT