

## **Farm Steering Committee March 6, 2024 Minutes**

The Farm Steering Committee met for a regular business meeting at the WSU Extension Office Kivley Center, 97 Oak Bay Road, Port Hadlock. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Members present:** Janet Aubin, Martin Frederickson, Keith Kisler, Laura Llewellyn, Martin Mills, David Seabrook, Kellie Henwood, Al Latham, Rebecca Benjamin

**Other Attendees:** Heidi Eisenhour, Jefferson County Drainage District and Sara Spaeth (for Erik Kingfisher) of the Jefferson Land Trust

**Staff:** Port Executive Director Eron Berg, Deputy Director Eric Toews, Administrative Assistant Joanna Sanders, and University of Washington Katie Cotie, and Rick Sepler.

**Commissioners:** Pam Petranek.

**Welcome and Introductions of UW and Steering Committee:** Eric Toews and UW Team as follows.

Katie Cody, Affiliate Faculty Member  
Malia Wing, Lead Presenter/Conservation and Ecological Features  
Abi Newbold, Conservation and Ecological Features Presenter  
Clelie Fielding, Conservation and Ecological Features / Breakout Session Leader  
Tony Charvoz, Facilitator/Lead Presenter – Land Use and Infrastructure  
Ben Hagen, Land Use and Infrastructure Presenter  
Will Palmer, Land Use and Infrastructure Team/Breakout Session leader

Aziz Al-Azzon, Land Use and Infrastructure Team/Notetaker  
Justin Patterson, Agriculture and Economic Context Presenter  
Will McPherson, Agriculture and Economic Context Team/Breakout Session leader  
Greg Suskin, Agriculture and Economic Context/Notetaker

**Key Objectives and Existing Conditions of Short Farm:** UW presented on the following:

**Infrastructure and Land Use** Review of Existing Facilities, Buildings and Services by Ben Hagen.

**Conservation and Ecological Features.** Abi Newbold led a review of their observations.

**Agriculture/Economic Context** by Justin Patterson covering the questions - What is available? What is missing? What value-added products might be produced due to a lack of infrastructure. He reviewed Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan guidance.

**Steering Committee Questions/Comments** were as follows: Request for clarity about areas with the designation of wetland, curiosity about the prior converted wetlands and the ability to use those wetlands, what are the electrical and septic systems on the property, request for clarification on

the meaning of the shoreline management and parameters for permitting uses or development within the shoreline.

Questions about how much of the property is in timber, habitat value of swans, questions about the manure ponds, and the potential for USDA slaughter facility, getting information from the Shorts and other sources. What is the risk of not having continual use? What would be the regulatory impact if there was a lapse in certain uses? What types of potential production and agriculture would be suited for this property? What are the data sets or markers UW is using (it was noted all would be cited in the report)?

**Visioning Goals and Methods:** Malia Wing explained the visioning exercise to discuss five key questions: where we are now, where are we headed, where are we going, where do we want to go, and how do we get there. To get the most from the community, they solicited input on what methods might work best to get feedback at the April meeting: charette, focus group, and/or survey.

**Meeting Wrap up:** UW shared the following based on group discussions: involve the community and ensure representative feedback. When considering how best to collect information from the community and how to structure conversations talk face to face, have personal conversations, present/share historical information (more pictures/less words), and creek drainage is contentious issue, so leave options open and explore possibilities/know the framework. There is comfort in small groups and benefits to breakout sessions, but also provide the ability to write comments and collect additional community input. Balancing the realistic needs of the Port and the agriculture community.

**Closing remarks:** While there was a desire for a breadth of comments, focus in on those who are well-informed. The Drainage District happened at the same time as the Port's purchase so differentiate these matters for those who want to participate in the drainage district to avoid confusing the public on where to direct their energy and comments.

Next public meeting is April 17/18 adjourned at 7:25 p.m.