

# The Short Farm Project

*Supporting Community  
Resilience & Prosperity*



**Port Commission Retreat Discussion**

**April 20, 2023**



# The Short Farm Project

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*How can the Port help to strengthen our local ag economy and food system?*





# Short's Family Farm: Snapshot

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- 253 acres - one of the county's largest ag land ownerships
- Began as a dairy farm in 1945
- 2016 - Grant Deed of Agricultural Easement to Jefferson Land Trust
- Presently used for pasture raised beef, silage & hay production
- Letter of Intent to sell to Port signed in September '22
- \$1.4M Purchase & Sale Agreement Finalized & Soon to be Effective
- \$1.0M funding support anticipated in State Budget
- Closing expected in September 2023



# Why did the Port get involved?!?! ---

- **Institutional Capacity** - Forging partnerships, managing complexity, and building infrastructure
- **Breathing Life into a Century-Old Vision** - County residents have imagined a Port that supports local ag since 1926
- **Navigating an Era of Uncertainty** - Strengthening local ag and our food system increases our community's ability to adapt to a changing world and overcome stress and adversity





# A Look Back at Our '22 Retreat:

*“As we teeter at the edge of hydrocarbons,  
we have very important work to do . . .”*

- Support/expand local food production
- Expand practical skills (e.g., farming) to foster community resilience and self-reliance
- Rebuild and repair core public infrastructure
- Prepare for inevitable contraction
- Adjust our expectations to fit within the limits of energy systems that have a future





# A Look Ahead:

## Planning the Future of the Farm

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- Establishing Foundational Goals
- Engaging Specialists to Manage the Process
- Identifying Steering Committee Members (Local Experts)
- Pre-Planning/Developing Information to Share w/Stakeholders & Public
- Facilitating an Open Public Process to Identify/Select a “Preferred Alternative”





# Foundational Goals for Commission Consideration

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1. Ensure consistency with applicable land use policy and regulatory requirements and all deed restrictions (e.g., conservation easement)
2. Generate sufficient revenue to ensure total cost recovery plus a reasonable rate of return
3. Tangibly benefit local farmers and help to sustain and expand local ag production
4. Improve the environment and habitat functions and values – especially for anadromous fish





**Seek Help from  
Specialists to  
Facilitate the Process**



**UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON**

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DESIGN AND PLANNING

College of Built Environments



# Masters in Urban Planning (MUP) Program Winter & Spring Studio

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- Up to 24 MUP graduate students under faculty guidance to facilitate the process and write up the results
- Course credits achieved in pursuit of advanced degrees
- Under the supervision and guidance of experienced professionals:
  - Christopher Campbell, Dept. Chair
  - Rick Sepler, Affiliate Faculty





# UW - MUP Program Background

- Has historically assisted communities throughout Western Washington:
  - Larger Jurisdictions – cities of Seattle, Everett, Bellingham, and King, Kitsap and Whatcom counties
  - Smaller Communities - Buckley, Port Orchard, Port Townsend
- Studio classes - an integral part of the educational process
- Provides grad students a chance to collaboratively problem-solve “real world” issues in communities throughout the region



# Identify Local Experts to Guide Plan Development

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## Steering Committee Comprised of:

- Farmers
- Key Non-Profits
- Local & Resource Agencies
- Food Retailers
- Citizens at Large





# Planning Process: Proposed Schedule

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## **Spring to Autumn 2023:**

- Set Process Goals
- Appoint Steering Committee
- Develop Informational Materials

## **Winter 2024:**

- Conduct Community Visioning
- Develop Alternatives (Steering Com.)

## **Spring 2024:**

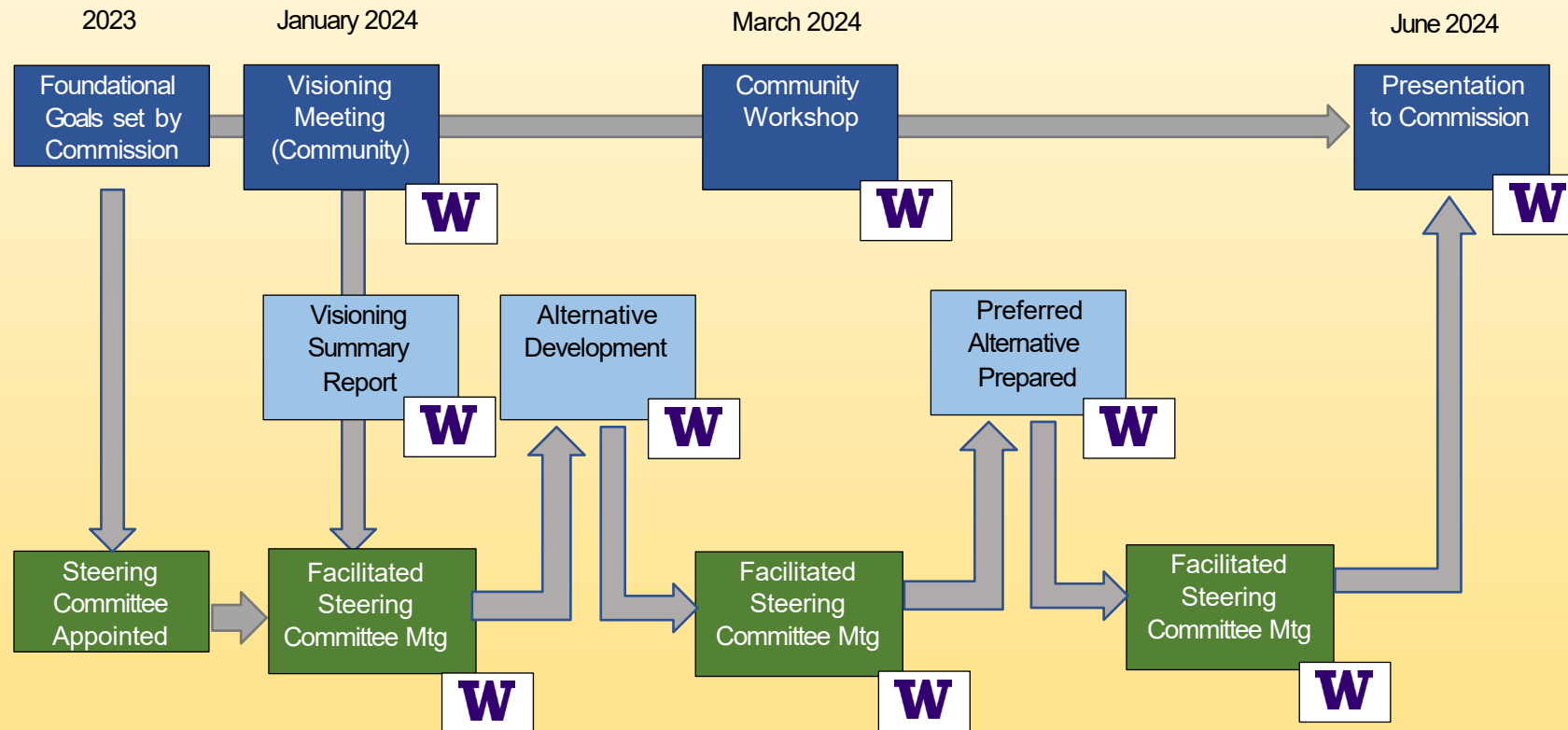
- Community Workshop
- Select/Refine Preferred Alternative
- Present to Commission





## DRAFT Planning Process – Short Farm

= Proposed UW Team Involvement





# Discussion, Questions, Next Steps

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**UW 51 – WSU 33**

**Matt & Kristian - Any Other Questions?**

