KITSAP COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 2015

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Darren Gurnee, Planner 2, Project Manager

Cc: Larry Keeton, Director
    Patty Charnas, Division Manager
    David Greetham, Planning Supervisor

RE: Agriculture Code Background Information for Work Study

Kitsap County Department of Community Development is updating Title 17 to include an “Agriculture Code” section. Attached please find comprehensive plan goals and policies used to guide the development of preliminary draft Agriculture Code. Please note that this is background information for the February 3 work study. A formal staff report shall be provided prior to a Planning Commission hearing.

Agriculture Code Historic Context

- Currently Kitsap County agriculture code exists as sporadic regulations within multiple Kitsap County Code Titles.
- In August 2011 the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Kitsap County Strategic Agricultural Plan and Inventory. The Agricultural Plan identifies both local and regional strategies to increase agricultural viability within Kitsap County.
- An update to the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan Rural and Resource Lands chapter in 2012 provided multiple goals and policies related to agriculture.
- The development of an “Agricultural Code” section in Kitsap County Code reflects the goals, policies, and strategies in the previously mentioned plans.

Summary of 2015 Agriculture Code Update Components

The 2015 Agriculture Code update is a new Agriculture Code section in Kitsap County Code Title 17. Key elements of the Agriculture Code include a directive to “permit all agricultural uses as defined 17.110.050 and agricultural activities as defined in Revised Code of Washington 7.48.310 in the Rural Wooded, Rural Protection and Rural Residential zoning districts” and “develop and adopt a Right-to-Farm ordinance”.

Below is a summary of key Agriculture Code update issues as identified by the Agriculture Code work team.

- Protection from nuisance complaints
- Agriculture structure requirements
- Accessory agriculture use requirements
- Agritourism
- Existing and on-going agricultural uses
- Indirect preservation of agricultural lands
Goal 8. Promote diverse agricultural activities.

Policy RL-79
The Kitsap County Agricultural Strategic Plan and Inventory shall be the basis for Kitsap’s food system, including agriculture, policies and programs developed by the County. Agricultural mapping detailed in the plan shall be maintained and refined.

Policy RL-80
Allow agricultural activities and practices from cultivation to harvest as well as on-farm value-added processing within the Rural Wooded, Rural Protection and Rural Residential zoning districts or the Farming Focus Areas identified in the Agricultural Strategic Plan and Inventory.

Goal 9. Retain and preserve land suitable for agricultural production and encourage the continued practice of farming within the County through regulatory and non-regulatory means.

Policy RL-81
Develop and adopt a Right-to-Farm ordinance.

Policy RL-82
Permit all agricultural uses as defined 17.110.050 and agricultural activities as defined in Revised Code of Washington 7.48.310 in the Rural Wooded, Rural Protection and Rural Residential zoning districts.

Policy RL-83
Slaughtering facilities, meat packing or commercial feed lots shall be limited to the Farming Areas identified in the Agricultural Strategic Plan and Inventory.

Policy RL-84
Develop and adopt standards for permitting temporary farm worker housing standards and policies to allow for construction of farm worker housing and infrastructure.

Policy RL-85
Consider procedures to notify neighboring landowners about approved agricultural uses in the Rural Wooded, Rural Protection and Rural Residential zoning districts.

Policy RL-86
Coordinate with federal, state and local governments, community groups, and private landowners to promote long-term preservation of farmlands.

Policy RL-87
Develop regulations that permit appropriate farm-related activities secondary to primary farm operations in Rural Wooded, Rural Protection and Rural Residential zoning districts. This includes, but is not limited to, farm infrastructure buildings, commercial activities in conjunction with adding value to products grown on the farm (on-farm processing, community kitchens), farm stands and sales, and other essential farm support activities.

Policy RL-88
Develop and promote incentives for continued resource uses, including but not limited to a Transfer of Development Rights program, an expedited agricultural activity permit review program, and educational and agritourism activities.

Policy RL-89
Recognize recreational equine activities and animal grazing uses as compatible uses with agricultural uses and activities because of their economic contribution to the County’s agricultural industry and for preserving large parcels of land for other agricultural uses.

Policy RL-90
Review and amend development regulations to consider impacts of non-farm-related commercial or industrial uses to the Farming Areas identified in the Agricultural Strategic Plan and Inventory.

Goal 10. Develop and maintain adequate rural public facilities and services that support local agriculture.

Policy RL-91
Water is an agricultural necessity. Develop and adopt policies with appropriate local, county and state agencies to promote viable coordinated water resources for greater accessibility to water rights for agriculture usage.