

APPENDIX B PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Throughout 2010 and 2011, Kitsap County engaged the community in a collaborative discussion of agriculture's future in Kitsap. These community conversations included the complete food chain (production, processing, distribution, access and composting). As a key component to production, farmland preservation was a primary focus.

Kitsap County held meetings with multiple stakeholders and community groups including the Food and Farm Policy Council, Kitsap Economic Development Alliance Agricultural Working Group, Kitsap Community and Agricultural Alliance and individual food producers, processors and distributors. From these conversations a draft plan was developed and released on June 6, 2011 for public comment. Kitsap County held two well attended public open houses on June 14 and 15, 2011 in South and Central Kitsap to present the plan's findings, maps and proposed strategies. The public actively engaged in the review of the documents providing constructive suggestions and proposed revisions. After review and incorporation of these comments, a second draft plan was released on July 18, 2011 for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners on August 6, 2011. At this hearing, full written and oral testimony was accepted on all aspects of the plan.

Below is a comments matrix prepared based upon public comment on the June 6, 2011 draft.

Name	Contact Information	Topic	Comment Summary
Harley Soltes 360-297-2203	harley@kingstonfarm.net	Ag History/Current Ag Info/Ag Mapping/Ag Ratings	We operate a working farm in Area #43 (Harky Bob's Eggs), it's history dating back to the 1940's. Inclusion in Ag zone is appropriate; farm income is well beyond hobby farm; need increase in allowed animal density to continue.
Alex Williams	alex.williams@gmail.com	Strategies/Review of Current Regs	County has sizeable acreage of viable farmland; that will be necessary going forward to insure food security; essential to consider whatever regulatory changes may be required for families on 1 acre or less to provide fresh food for themselves.
Peggy Hall, KCAA Treasurer	legacyfarm@centurytel.net (for the KCAA)	Strategies/Review of Current Regs	The draft plan was reviewed by a quorum at the KCAA with these comments: 1. Draft is appreciated by the Ag community; 2. Document 3.2.1.C Ag Policies for Rural Land should be incorporated into the draft; 3. County regs are a primary barrier to AG and any legal AG practice in the state shall not be impeded in the County.

Valerie Randall	vasinvalerie@gmail.com	Ag History/Current Ag Info/Area Ratings/Strategies/Plan Conclusions	Tonight was my 1st introduction to plan. I am encouraged by the thorough, collaborative and holistic vision represented by the plan.
Melanie Keenan	keenanforcouncil@gmail.com melaniekeenan@comcast.net	All Areas	Please consider including notice for comments toward this draft in the Kitsap Voters Pamphlet soon to be published.
Michele Gilles	michele.gilles@gmail.com	Ag Mapping/Strategies	Will an action plan or work plan be developed from the strategies? How do you plan to capture farming efforts that are not currently in Ag tax classification or that are too small or too new to be on the Conservation District's radar?
Anonymous		Ag Mapping/Review of Current Regs	We need a strong policy that supports agriculture as an industry in the entire country. The Ag mapping seems out of date.
Paula Strid	prstrid@yahoo.com	Strategies/Review of Current Regs/Plan Conclusions	Protection of farmland needs to be pursued aggressively. Small farms need help in holding on to their farms and being able to make a living at them. A Farmer's Market that runs 10 to 12 months a year is needed to help farmers sell their product and make a profit.
Ron Eber		Ag History/Current Ag Info/Ag Mapping/Strategies/Plan Conclusions	Good foundation and inventory basis for plan development. Purpose areas should be explained e.g. eventual protection, overlays, etc; maps need refinement on boundaries to leave out forested areas or hillsides, etc.
Chris Henry	chrishenry123@yahoo.com	Strategies	Only 1% of food consumed in County is grown here. For a sustainable and resilient future, we must increase this percentage substantially. I encourage tax subsidies and/or relaxed regulation for farmer to direct consumer activities (farmer's market). This form of encouragement should only be given to organic, non-fossil fuel based Ag. Thank you!
Anon		Ag Mapping/Strategies	I am an interested citizen and CSA customer & am hoping you follow the Policy Recommendations for the 'Rural Resource' Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan that encourages local farming.
Kelly Evans	kevans98366@yahoo.com	Ag Mapping/Area Ratings	My property is slightly outside of the bolded emphasis areas on the map. I am concerned that my future input will not be considered based on that fact. How are small, outside of the norm farms such as start now considered when it comes to input and property use/farming rights?
Anonymous	NA	Strategies/Review of Current Regs/Plan Conclusions	1. The KC AG Plan is appreciated by Farmers; 2. County Regs are one of the primary barriers to Ag in Kitsap. Any practice that is legal in WA should not be impeded in KC except large CAFO's; 3. The document 3.2.1.C Ag Policies for Rural Lands produced by the FarmFood Policy Council provides better conclusions.

Anonymous	NA	Strategies/Review of Current Regs/Plan Conclusions	Most of the farming is backyard- 4H type. It is about community and helping one another. No use permit- too costly-would hinder this type of lifetime learning of animal husbandry; more cooperative use of facilities i.e. mobile slaughter unit; Right to Farm legislation.
Scott Hall	legacyfarm@centurytel.net	Recommendations for future efforts:	1. Identify, via ranking scheme, farmland preservation projects to be considered under KC Conservation Futures funding and set aside minimum portion of funding for farmland preservation; establish a listing of 'farmlands of local significance' that other potential farmland preservation funding sources may use as resource for funding. 2. Perform analysis of impacts in converting farmland to other uses; 3. Conduct assessment of development impacts where major development occurred in immediate vicinity of farmlands; 4. KC must immediately conduct review process for Title 19 of the KCC as it specifically applies to agricultural activities to be in place by Dec.1,2012.

Diane Fish	dfish@wsu.edu	Comments on Document	<p>1.The survey by the KCAA was conducted primarily in 2008, reflect a small, self-selected population of farmers and the preliminary results immediately informed the KEDA 20/20 Agriculture Working Group so many of the policy recommendations from that survey were addressed in 2009/2010. 2. Kitsap Mason Farm Bureau should have been tapped for help on the Inventory of Existing and Potential Ag Lands. 3. The Japanese American berry framers were evacuated in the 1940's and most returned to find their farmers in tact. Because of our terrain, geography and soils, Kitsap always had a smaller Ag basis in our economy than surrounding counties. 4. Kitsap farmers typically farmed and had off farm income and is reflective of many small farms in the 40's-70's. It is typically pointed out as a weakness in the Kitsap economy not to have full time living off the farm but is actually reflective of small farms nationwide. In the modern age, off farm income is probably less about additional dollars and more about health benefits. 5. Parcel size is the single biggest factor impacting size of operation. Labor is about skill, access to training, access to affordable housing, state regs about interns in farming and farming year round so you can retain a skilled labor force. 6. Biggest barrier to produce washing lines is CY regs about co-processing. 7. The cost of metered water from a PUD or public system is the most expensive possible option for farms and processors. A secondary burden is the cost of storm water. 8. Why wholesale product when direct to consumer sales allow the small farm to capture the greatest value for their product. 9. Chef's from local restaurants can lack an understanding of seasonal offerings or be unwilling/unable to change menus in response to changing product supply. 10. Please remove the organic reference- there is nothing wrong with conventional Ag practices; organic practices are a way to add value to agriculture and may represent a less toxic alternative in some circumstances but the jury is still out on whether organic farming is 'better' than conventional. 11. Consider inclusion of farmland mitigation programs like Brentwood, Ca(www.mrsc.org/subjects/planning/farmland.aspx#mitigation)Because it is economically more attractive for developers to convert farmland to housing rather than undeveloped or timberlands, consider adoption of a development fee or penalty for such action.. As long as it is cheaper to build on farmland, that is what is going to happen. 12. Unless you can't do anything with a piece of land but farm it, GMA will continue to be a complete failure at supporting farmland preservation efforts. Any thoughtful policy must include unpopular but necessary topics like financial disincentives (penalties) for developing farmland, protective zoning and an examination of our vesting laws. 13. The PACE/TDR/PDR section doesn't take into consideration that these programs (and most preservation efforts) are largely reliant upon state and federal grant funds, competitive in nature, to purchase easements.</p>
			<p>Floating bonds to fund these measures is untenable in this economy/TDR's lack the requisite densities in this economy and TDR programs lack the requisite densities on a per county basis to really be effectively implemented. A regional/state strategy with receiving areas in metropolitan areas and sending areas in rural areas has some possibilities. A regional collaboration for TDR makes more sense than a county program since many of the more rural counties lack the development pressure to make the program viable. 14. Limitations to the PACE include the inability to restrict purchase of a property with a deed restriction to farming (it can be converted to an equestrian facility for example)</p>

Diane Fish- cont'd

and the cost of the land can rapidly escalate beyond the financial means of a farmer in a volatile real estate market. The deed restriction places no limitation on use.

15. Howe Farm was purchased with the intent that it remain a working farm, the fact that the CY screwed that up by capitulating to the dogs notwithstanding. 16. The RTF statement is better than Pierce or Thurston CY's. This statement protects current farm operations and those that want to start on undeveloped land. 17. Ag land conversion should include crop and orchard uses as well as pasture land. In many circumstances, intensive row cropping, permaculture practices or a combination of both are environmentally sustainable and economically viable yet to current code they are considered as high an impact as putting in a new traffic corridor. That is patently absurd. 18. Any policy must be less costly for an individual to develop new agricultural lands than it is to build a housing development. 19. Suggest under Ag and Kistap Codes/ Accessory Uses- Agritourism, On-farm Education(interns), Farmworker Housing, Co-processing and collaboration between farmers for economy of scale. Prohibitions against co-packing or collaboration between farmers for economy of scale is the single biggest barrier in Kitsap. 20. An issue is the CY interpreting code to mean that livestock have access to shelter 24/7. Good husbandry practices dictate when shelter is needed and requiring a barn in every paddock is an undue and unnecessary burden on the farmer. 21. Pre-engineered buildings should be added as a consideration under the Ag Building Location and Construction. Working with DCD to get pre-packaged buildings and sheds that are clearly meant for ag uses put together would save time in permitting and farmers \$\$ in the process of applying to build a structure. 22. A RTF would eliminate nuisance issues of odor, noise and dust. 23. Farmer should also be able to write their own plans similar to the coached stewardship plans for forest planning. Pay the KCD to review them but don't require folks to use them. 24. A permanent AG agent would make a huge difference in the CY. Funded through property assessments.

Mike Browning

mdbrowning1@msn.com

Horses produce nothing and they should not be in a farm type plan unless they pull a plow regularly, they smell, make dust and attract flies and rodents. If anything, setbacks should be increased to spare neighbors who do not like the smell of horse manure. I have found out that code enforcement (Mr. Rice) did not understand what a paddock included and I suspect the county would buy off on 20,000 sq.ft. of brush, stumps, dirt and trees being called a pasture. My neighbor has kept up to six horses in a maybe thousand sq.ft. of dirt for two years, within twenty-five feet of my property line, he has almost ten acres so he could legally keep a hundred horses there. This is crazy. Increase the setbacks and please enforce the codes. Thank you.

Nikki Johanson	nikkijwa@yahoo.com	Pheasant Fields Farms, Silverdale	<p>Agriculture continues to be supported by the growing voice of the consumer demanding locally grown food which has been what has given us farmers hope for a brighter future. As an active member of the Ag community, I have been involved in drafting a number of ag related documents and have thoroughly read through the plan. I agree with most of the edit comments provided by Diane Fish and feel they were well founded, well stated and thorough.</p> <p>My general comments are: When addressing new goals, the DCD considers loosening up on regulatory terminology and will think in terms of supportive and assistance types of services; as in loosening up on housing facilities for farm interns. 'Agritourism' is omitted in the DCD version of the 3.2.1.C. Agricultural policy paperwork and needs to be reinstated. It is a real word with significant meaning- it is synonymous with economic boost to a farmer as well as a community. Lastly, until there are funds available to support TDR implementation, we will not see any move to take advantage of their use.</p>
Ron Eber	ronaldeber@comcast.net	Box 249, Port Gamble, WA 98364	<p>Since the identification criteria for AEA's are 'subjective', it would be helpful to include a more detailed description that explains why each area was chosen and more precisely why it received the priority rating it did. I recommend that other areas not selected, especially those with non forested prime soils or other critical areas regardless of existing lot sizes and development be carefully reviewed and considered for identification. Prime soils are irreplaceable and should be protected as much as possible. There is a need for more precise boundaries and to be sure that lands with no farm potential are not included in the AEA's. I recommend renaming emphasis areas to 'Agricultural Opportunity Areas'- it better conveys the intended purpose of these areas. Also, I suggest mapping the non prime class 2,3,4 soils instead of the more vague and general 'soils of statewide significance' and avoid including heavily forested areas or steep hillsides as these should not be a high priority for the encouragement of future farm uses. You can require that any development be sited or located on the least suitable soils for farming and that will not interfere with existing farm uses.</p>
Stephen Gatz		11850 SE Black Rd, Olalla, 98359	<p>In the South Kitsap AEA, include the area on both sides of Orchard Ave, including both sides of the Black Rd circuit. I suggest you include larger sections in the document describing methods and initiatives to assist the new farmer or create new farms. An additional value-added agricultural activity in the Cy is hops production for local breweries. Three breweries have opened in just the past year. A trend in Kitsap is people are coming here for the Quality of Life that acreage has to offer and part of that is the opportunity to create a small farm. It is these citizens who hold the key to creating the Economy of Scale where existing farms can find relief in resources and cost burdens. A way to encourage farming in KC is to increase the flexibility of</p>

Stephen Gatz -cont'd		11850 SE Black Rd, Olalla, 98359	<p>the permitting process for livestock and subsidizing a sm % to ag products sold here,a rebate of sorts- promote from within while reducing the competition from the outside.</p> <p>Besides Regional Strategies for Farmland Preservation, create a section for Creation of Farmland for Kitsap County, too. Additional Buy Local venues include student camps, jails and criminal processing centers. Following Best Management Practices and Guidance from the KC Ag Extension Office should be allowed to circumvent Titles 12 and 19.</p>
Rene & Linda LaMarche		6615 Sunnyslope Rd 98367	<p>We believe the Farm Preservation issues have to include reference to 'innovative farming measures' such as aquaponics and hydroponics. Innovations developed over the past 10-15 years have gained significant inroads into sustainable farming concepts and language supporting these farming practices will prevent a potential hiccup down the road. Existing regulations stifle the application process for putting in aquaponic or hydroponic agricultural facilities. We encourage KC to include innovative agriculture methods in the language of the strategy with the intent of providing pioneering enterprises with the same protections, incentives, and recognitions as the conventional soil farmer.</p>