

## **Agricultural Resources Committee**

Minutes

November 14, 2012

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Island Libraries

**ARC Members Present:** Tim Clark, Candace Jagel, Sara Jones, Tom Schulz, Mike Pickett, Bruce Gregory, Jim Sesby

**ARC Members Absent:** Ian Harlow, Christina Orchid, Hawk Pingree, Danna Kinsey

**ARC Staff Present:** Jamie Grifo

**Other Attendees:** Michele Heller

### **Welcome & Changes to Agenda**

**Agenda:** No changes.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 19, 2012 ARC meeting were approved as amended (moved by Bruce, seconded by Sara, passed unanimously). The minutes of the October 17, 2012 ARC meeting were approved as amended (moved by Candace, seconded by Bruce, passed unanimously).

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

### **Chair's Report**

**Executive Subcommittee:** Candace moved to create an Executive Subcommittee of the ARC for the purpose of taking care of administrative details and acting as a steering committee that performs in an advisory capacity to the Coordinator and makes recommendations to the entire ARC with a membership comprised of no more than 5 members including the Chair, Vice-Chair, Previous Chair, and up to two additional members if required. Bruce seconded and the motion passed with unanimous consent. There was discussion regarding the merits of having an Executive Subcommittee and all present members agreed that the logistical impact could be significantly beneficial.

### **ARC Coordinator's Report**

**CUFA Update:** There was discussion regarding the state of the Current Use Program. Candace remarked that she had reached out to the Assessor and the Prosecuting Attorney to meet and figure out next steps that the Assessor's Office and the ARC could take together in a conciliatory and productive manner. The Assessor's Office noted that they would not be available for such a meeting until after the New Year.

There was discussion regarding the costs and benefits of hosting an informational summit for landowners enrolled in CUFA program in San Juan County. Also mentioned were other possible avenues for dissemination of relevant information pertaining to CUFA.

There was discussion about urging the SJCC to appoint an Agricultural Tax

Advisory Committee. Jamie circulated a draft memorandum that he was prepared to submit to the SJ County Council.

There was discussion about whether or not the ARC website should offer a reference page for affected landowners to have access to pertinent documentation. Sara moved to direct the Coordinator to create a reference page on the ARC website (followed up with an email directly to San Juan County landowners linking them to the page) as a resource for landowners in the County. Bruce seconded and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Jamie discussed open meetings requirements.

### **Ag. Economic Dev. Subcommittee**

Candace gave an update discussing the recent Ag. Ec. Dev. Subcommittee meeting explaining the Great Island Grown Festival and some of the feedback from the countywide event. The subcommittee crafted a work-plan for the 2012-2013 ARC year. The work plan did not include the Small Farm Internship Program. That issue was remanded to the entire ARC membership, to be taken up along with other regulatory issues by the entire committee, in the absence of a regulations subcommittee.

Candace and Sara led a brief discussion about the ARC hosting an Agricultural Summit to help coordinate all of the disparate Ag related organizations in the County. A follow up discussion will occur at the December 5, 2012 ARC meeting.

### **Island Grown Program:**

Jamie discussed the offer from NABC to help implement the Island Grown program and his inclination to accept the offer contingent upon the ARC crafting producer guidelines and a membership-pricing scheme. The Ag. Ec. Dev. Subcommittee committed to addressing this issue at their December 10, 2012 meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:05 pm.**