

Wiser, Sonja



From: Tilton, Rebecca
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 1 28 PM
To: Schroader, Kathy, Wiser, Sonja
Subject: FW Request to form Rural Taskforce
Attachments: CCC - Request to form Rural Taskforce pdf

Hello,

Please see the attached comp plan comments for the record

Thanks,
Rebecca

From: Warren Neth [<mailto:warren@slowfoodswwa.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 12:57 PM
To: Boldt, Marc; Stewart, Jeanne; Olson, Julie (Councilor); Madore, David; Mielke, Tom
Cc: Tilton, Rebecca; Euler, Gordon; Anderson, Colete; Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Request to form Rural Taskforce

Greetings,

I have attached a document that I request be entered into the record of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update. As you reconsider the preferred alternative of the comprehensive plan update, please consider forming a task force of diverse stakeholders with the purpose to.

1. Develop opportunities for rural landowners to voluntarily conserve resource land.
2. Provide flexibility to add residence to AG and FR zoning that will maintain, enhance, preserve, promote and conserve the agricultural and forest industry and values.

Slow Food Southwest Washington is available to answer any questions regarding this proposal.

Thank You,
Warren Neth

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Warren Neth
Executive Director
Slow Food Southwest Washington
www.slowfoodswwa.com
cell- 360-771-1296

To Council Chair Marc Boldt and Clark County Council
From Warren Neth, Executive Director Slow Food SW Washington
Regarding **Formation of a Task Force to develop opportunities for rural landowners to voluntarily conserve resource land.**
Date Feb 22, 2016

Slow Food Southwest Washington works to inspire people to eat, grow and share local, healthy food. As you reconsider the preferred alternative of the comprehensive plan update, **please consider forming a task force of diverse stakeholders with the purpose to:**

1. **Develop opportunities for rural landowners to voluntarily conserve resource land and**
2. **Provide flexibility to add residence to AG and FR zoning that will maintain, enhance, preserve, promote and conserve the agricultural and forest industry and values.**

AG and FR zoning is critically important to retain a base of economically viable resource lands. There are voluntary tools that have been successful to augment resource land protection. Several tools have been mentioned during public testimony on the Comprehensive Plan. We request that you create a taskforce administered by the county's long-range planning department to conduct public outreach, convene stakeholder meetings, develop recommendations, provide program guidance, and collect research. Here is a proposed scope of work for the task force:

- Identify **agricultural production districts** that can conserve a critical mass of agricultural land and farms that allows for the retention of an agricultural economic infrastructure and support services.
- Facilitate a Clark County Council work session with NRCS, Clark Conservation District, American Farmland Trust, Columbia Land Trust, WA office of Farmland Preservation and local stakeholders.
- Create a finance plan to fund farmland conservation from federal, state, local and private sources. Here are links to two funding opportunities.
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/cta/>
<http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/farmland.shtml>
- Connect with the Regional Transfer of Development Rights Alliance.
<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/Services/localgovernment/GrowthManagement/Regional-TDR-Rights-Program/Pages/default.aspx>
- Examine and develop a position statement on the effects of rural zoning on forest/agricultural families and businesses.
- Partner with Intertwine to develop a strategy that leverages wildlife and recreation open space initiatives with farmland conservation.
- Guide the Legacy Lands Program to **Purchase Development Rights** from willing landowners in Agricultural Production.
- Work with the Columbia Land Trust to develop funding to purchase Agricultural Conservation Easements from landowners in Agricultural Production Districts.

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- **Transfer of development rights** have been implemented successfully in other counties and have demonstrated their effectiveness in preserving farmland. Work with Clark County Community Planning to institute a TDR pilot program, so that the market valuations of development credits and evaluation of receiving and sending areas are identified. Clark County Community Planning proposed a TDR pilot program June 2014, but was voted down by the BOCCC. Vancouver community planning staff has identified the potential for receiving sites for development credits in urban areas, which the task force should inventory and evaluate.
 - **Rural Accessory Development Units** are not currently available in the rural areas. A pilot program to determine if ADUs could help provide flexibility to rural landowners to share their land with family members or farming partners, while meeting basic septic and not over using wells. Rural Accessory Development Units, should also be considered as receiving sites for a TDR program.

There have been two excellent reports that point the way forward

- The Agriculture Preservation Committee's report of 2009, *Agricultural Preservation Strategies Report*. A principle recommendation from the report is the designation of agricultural production districts in the county. These would be prioritized areas for the preservation of agricultural lands and the focus for application of purchase or transfer of development rights and aggregation of land dedicated to farming.
- Clark County Food System Council, *Promoting Agricultural Food Production in Clark County*, 2013, recommended landowners be given voluntary tools to protect and maintain agriculturally productive lands during the current update of the comprehensive plan.

Your Tuesday 2/23 decision to select a preferred alternative does not allow for a thoughtful examination of these tools, their application in Clark County and whether they could be part of our efforts to maintain, enhance, preserve, promote and conserve the agricultural industry in compliance with the GMA. Given that, **please form a taskforce of diverse stakeholders with the purpose to develop opportunities for rural landowners to voluntarily conserve resource land and provide flexibility to add residences to AG and FR zoning that will maintain, enhance, preserve, promote and conserve the agricultural industry and values.**

Thank you for your consideration. Slow Food SW Washington stands ready to assist in your efforts.

Thank You,
Warren Neth
Executive Director
Slow Food Southwest Washington