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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

COMMUNITY PLANNING SUMMARY MINUTES

Rural Lands Task Force Meeting #7 – August 25, 2009

Members Present: Ginger Burr, Ingrid Dankmeyer, Dan Dupuis, Doug Hagedorn, Russ Grattan, Rocque Merritt, Monty Multanen, Mike Posey, Danny Walsh, Bill Zimmerman, and Robert Zumstein

Staff Present: Gordy Euler, Jose Alvarez

The meeting began at 6:10 pm.

Gordy handed out the results of the County Fair survey, a cluster ordinance proposal from David Halme, the old county agricultural ordinance (Chapter 18.301) which included a clustering provision, and a report from Whatcom County on how they are addressing ag preservation.

The task force continued its discussion of what an ‘agricultural production district’ might be (one of the suggestions from the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Committee (APAC) report). A number of comments/suggestions were made:

- *districts could be all lands outside of UGAs and rural centers.
- *how do we get people to want to farm?
- *emphasize locally-grown food.
- *a survey of sellers at farmers markets would give some idea of acreages involved and issues facing local farmers.

Recommendation:

Allow clustering on agricultural land to provide an economic opportunity and to preserve open space and agricultural land. Allow two one-or two-acre lots plus a buildable remainder parcel. Consider a bonus lot as an incentive to keeping the land in agricultural production.

Jose was tasked with getting additional information about clusters development: 1) what is currently happening with remainder lots (ag production/current use/nothing), and 2) what are the assessed values of remainder lots.

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Public comment was heard after a break. Bill Doty stated that incentives were needed to get processors to locate here, and that economies of scale favor the keeping of larger lots sizes.

The group continued its discussion of the APAC recommendations. Gordy asked for clarification on issue 6(d) having to do with aligning state and county regulations on farm worker housing. Ingrid and Mike are going to do some checking; Gordy is waiting to hear back from Pat Lee as well. Issue 7(b) was discussed as to what the APAC's intent was.

Recommendation:

Equitable and consistent setbacks are needed on Rural and resource lands.

Next on the agenda will be a review of the county's agriculture and forest policies.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

NOTE: The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at the Dollars Corner Fire Station, 21609 NE 72nd Avenue in Battle Ground, beginning at 6 p.m. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for September 22; October 13 and October 27.