

## Community Advisory Group Overview

### Purpose Statement:

To provide policy recommendation to PDS staff in drafting an Agritourism Code that addresses the Board of County Commissioners' remand criteria, supporting the Skagit County Planning Commission's continued work with the public and the Agricultural Advisory Board to develop a revised recommendation on Agritourism for the Board of County Commissioners.

Resolution [#R20240132](#)

*Questions that the group will address (areas needing refinement as identified by the Board of County Commissioners):*

1. Define Agritourism and clarify the scope by specifying what activities fall outside the current definition of Agricultural Accessory Uses.
2. Define the criteria for full and lawful participation in the annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, ensuring that it is accessible, open, and offers adequate and equitable opportunities for all interested parties.
3. Determine whether Agritourism should be treated the same east of Sedro-Woolley as in the Skagit and Samish Delta areas and define the approach for each scenario.
4. Determine whether temporary use/events are sufficiently detailed in Skagit County Code for agritourism activities within Ag-NRL zoned lands.
5. Assess the consistency of the Proposed Agritourism Code Amendments and existing code with the King County v. Friends of Sammamish Valley State Supreme Court Decision, along with other relevant state-level actions related to agritourism.
6. Other to be determined by the advisory group.

### Organization:

Advisory group includes a diverse representation of Skagit County farmers with backgrounds in farming and agriculture, including those with interest and/or experience in agrotourism.

Recommended membership structure: Stakeholder group will be comprised of 12-person group from the following:

- Nine (9) producer representatives, three (3) representatives from each of the following: large scale farms/farmers, small/mid-scale farms/farmers, agritourism operators, including at least one wedding venue operator.
- One representative from each of the following:
  - o Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
  - o Family Festival of Farms
  - o Skagit Tourism Bureau

### Meeting Logistics:

- Eight (8) meetings occurring every two weeks on Thursday facilitated by a neutral third-party (Meg Harris, Triangle Associates Managing Associate, North Sound Lead). Skagit County staff will be present and include Tara Satushek, Senior Planner (Primary Project staff lead).

Additional County staff that may be present include Jack Moore, PDS Director and Lavelle Pilon, Administrative Coordinator.

- Meetings will be held at Skagit Publishing Community Room or similar (non-county owned building). The Community Room is located at 1215 Anderson Road, Mount Vernon, WA.
- Meetings will be video recorded, transcribed and available to the public.
- Most meetings will be approximately two (2) hours; however, the initial 1-3 meetings will be approximately 2-3 hours to provide an overview and introduction of membership and scope of work.

#### Meeting topics schedule (tentative):

- The first meeting is to set up agreed upon ground rules, preferred time schedule\* and decision-making process (recommend: modified consensus), introduction of the project and get to know advisory group members.
- Meetings 2-7 will focus on the five or more areas needing refinement as identified by the Board (page 1).
- By the conclusion of the meeting series, the group members will provide specific, actionable, and realistic recommendations on each of the areas identified in the remand resolution that will be used by PDS staff to draft policy recommendations for the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners' consideration.

#### Desired Outcome of 8-meeting series:

Group provides specific, actionable, and realistic recommendations to County Staff on the areas needing refinement identified by the Board (listed above). Recommendations represent group consensus (as possible) by the conclusion of the 8- meeting series (July 2025); dissenting opinions on the recommendations are also included for County staff.

#### Meeting dates:

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Community Room (Confirmed)  
April 10<sup>th</sup>, Tentative time  
April 24<sup>th</sup>, Tentative time  
May 8<sup>th</sup>, Tentative time  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tentative time  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, Tentative time  
June 17<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>, Tentative (Thursday is Juneteenth)  
July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tentative time

\* Skagit Publishing Community Room is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., if the group's preferred timeframe falls outside of these hours it may need to be in a county-owned facility.