

**Community Advisory Group on Agritourism Policy
Eighth Meeting
June 26, 2025**

**Community Advisory
Group Members:**

**Darrin Morrison, Morrison Farms
Matt Steinman, Foothill Farms
Kai Ottesen, Hedlin's Family Farms
Audrey Matheson, Bow Hill Blueberries
Nicole Roozen, Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
Jessie Anderson, Maplehurst Farms
Amy Frye, Boldly Grown Farm
Kristen Keltz, Skagit Tourism Bureau**

Other (Public):

**Kim Rubenstein, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
Lora Claus, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland**

Facilitator:

Meg Harris, Triangle Associates

County Staff:

Tara Satushek, Senior Planner

(recording begins mid-paragraph)

Meg Harris: You have four documents in front of you. I would like to just walk through them, and then we'll go around – we'll do introductions around the table and then we'll get Kim in the back of the room and then we can dive into the agenda. So the four items that you have in front of you – the agenda's on the top. You have a table that should look familiar after last meeting – is kind of an overview status of where we are. Just the recommendations. The front page is the focus of today and the back page has things that we agreed on at the last meeting.

The next document is titled "Synthesis Document" and it has specifically bridged for the four remaining remand topics so that – just have it by you. We can pull it onscreen if it's helpful. And then the last document is the full recommendation for Topic 4 since that was the only topic of the previous meeting that didn't have a written recommendation to it. I think we'll talk more in a moment, but given that it's new language, I printed that out so you could have it in front of you and mark it up as we're talking.

Any questions about what you have there in front of you?

(silence)

Ms. Harris: Okay, well, let's start with introductions around the table for the recording, Darrin, if you could kick us off?

Darrin Morrison: Okay. Good morning. Darrin Morrison. I'm with Morrison Farms, representing larger scale agriculture for the CAG.

Matt Steinman: Thanks, Darrin. Good morning. Matt Steinman, Foothills Farm. I'm representing the AAB; small, medium scale agriculture; and also east county.

Kai Ottesen: Kai Ottesen, Hedlin's Family Farms, representing smaller agriculture and direct market retail production.

Audrey Matheson: My name's Audrey Matheson. I'm the co-owner of Bow Hill Blueberries, representing organic farms and ____ market.

Nicole Roozen: Good morning. Nicole Roozen with the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival.

Tara Satushek: Good morning. Tara Satushek with Skagit County Planning and Development Services. I saw Jessie. Maybe she'll pop in here soon.

Ms. Harris: Meg Harris, Triangle Associates. Kim?

Kim Rubenstein: Kim Rubenstein, Skagitians to Preserve Farmland, __ generations _____.

Ms. Harris: And Jessie, will you introduce –

Jessie Anderson: Yeah! I'm Jessie Anderson of Maplehurst Farms.

Ms. Harris: Okay. So at this point it looks like you have six members of the advisory group at the table and you do have a quorum. So as we move forward you can talk about remand topics. It's up to you. I don't believe you're ready for voting on any of these, knowing that you, I think, are just waiting for Amy at this point. And Kristen also communicated that she'd be late.

Okay. Today is another voting meeting, which means that we're working to move towards consensus on the topics with written recommendations that we either – that you have specific desires to modify or things from the last meeting that were updates. In the spirit of that, each of the remaining remand topics have had some activity on them in the last week, 10 days. And so what I'd like to start with – and I'm going to pass things over to Tara in a second for an update on kind of where the County has come from, and then I'll hear from advisory group members and the specific kind of any changes or updates or additions from the last meeting to these remand topics.

Once we do that, you'll have an opportunity to have discussion, articulate points of view and alternative points of view, and then we'll work forward to decide what decides to get written for the County.

In the spirit of, like, updates since the last meeting, I think what I'd like to do is pass things over to the County to share a couple of things that they've brought forward to the table, and then we'll walk through the full agenda, starting with an update from Matt, who's offered to share on the AAB process. I think both of these things are in the spirit of more information for this group. And I feel that they're helpful as we, like, move forward and have conversations about these final four remaining remand topics.

Okay. So Tara? Yeah, will you share with us?

Ms. Satushek: Yeah. I'll just start with the – one of my to-do tasks was to share the AAB bylaws revolution. I think that got shared out. And then also the AAB has a meeting archives, which has their minutes, agenda, and transcripts – transcripts starting this year so the past four meetings have and so those are helpful if you kind of want to get a sense of what's been discussed. As Matt mentioned, it's open to the public. And so there are a lot of folks there that depend and share out that aren't necessarily on the Advisory Board.

So that's my update for the AAB as far as the things I was supposed to bring back. And then also my very – my rough framework to proposal for – the remand topics that we have here was to determine whether temporary use events are sufficiently detailed in Skagit County code for tourism activities within Ag-NRL lands. So my intent was to – the recommendation was to capture a response to that question based off of the discussion that I heard from folks and on the transcripts. So if I miss something, please let me know. Again, this is just a very – this is a framework just for – you guys can start to take away and whatever just to work with.

But basically the response was that temporary events is not sufficiently detailed in the code because there's no real – because there are no real thresholds for determining expiration dates; the size, scale of intensity; and no specific threshold to determine how a temporary event relates to agricultural production. I pulled that one out because that's in the code – temporary events for Ag-NRL. One of the criteria is that it has to relate to agricultural production. But again, there's no thresholds to clarify performance criteria that's current in code to really assess that.

So I – one of the recommendations I heard was to remove temporary events from the Ag-NRL code and instead establish three categories. Again, those are called the preventive use, administrative special use, a Hearing Examiner special use, and depending on – there'd be criteria established by the Department that would include but not limited to – so things that I incurred during the discussion that I captured _____, with the square footage of the proposed activity, the number of people served, and the number of days that could occur in a calendar year. That information would help staff and the public know what type of permit to proceed with if it was allowed, if that criteria was established.

Then the thresholds – further calling out the thresholds for each category should be defined by the County and must be clear, measurable, and enforceable. Again, this is to assist the public and staff to ensure consistent application of regulations to avoid land use conflicts and to support the intent of the Ag-NRL zone. And I took the language straight

from the code, which also comes from the Comp Plan., which the Ag-NRL district is to provide land for continued farming activities; conserve agricultural land; and reaffirm agricultural use activities and operations of the primary use of that district.

And again, to reiterate code _____, all agritourism activities must be directly related to agricultural production provided that no ag land is converted and no current structures are constructed. And then I went on to additional context as to why temporary events with not sufficient breakouts used because there are no thresholds.

And then depending on Amy's share of the Rural Element Guidebook of – it's in the staff form right now that was produced by Commerce. There is a section on agritourism and it recommended when determining types of current pathways, studies and analysis should be done for the project approval. So it was sent out to include but not limit to certain types. Another thing that you guys have pointed out is that considerations to include a proposed project in the area is that the area has adequate infrastructure and resources to support such uses, as these services are maintained by the County, such as emergency response, road maintenance, fire, all that.

And then I took some of the wording – I took a *lot* of the wording from the Rural Element Guidebook, which was to include “but not limited to traffic impact reports.” So though the traffic studies those are basically traffic generations based off of the use of their program the traffic planners had. Like, I have the square footage. I anticipate this many people at max capacity. This is how much traffic will be generated. It's a modelling method.

And then the anticipated ratio between principle use and agritourism use? That came from the Rural Element Guidebook. I don't know how that would honestly be implemented, but I did want to capture that as it was recommended by Commerce. The operating framework, parking studies, and operating plan, environmental impact, and infrastructure capacity. As much information just to help guide what kind of pathway they could move forward.

And then – yeah, so they also responded to ask the language to include impacts to agriculture and farming operations. If there were studies that we could put into that – supporting language. So that's the kind of breakdown of this document here.

Ms. Harris: (inaudible)

Ms. Satushek: Oh, yeah. _____.

Ms. Harris: I think we're best served by keeping this, like, fairly high level just to understand, like, what the update has been. Are there any, like, procedural questions at this point, or is there anything that you'd really like to ask Tara at this point? We will definitely come back to, like diving into any Comp Plan changes. I guess, like, clarifying questions would be appropriate – probably helpful, so they're not on the top of your mind, based on what Tara said.

Ms. Satushek: _____ that the proposed group circulated and I'm just kind of walking through it. Again, this was an attempt to capture the conversation that was held, so please feel free to make any changes.

Amy Frye: We'll come back to this?

Ms. Satushek: Yeah, we'll come back to this. I'll give you a little bit of my ____ too.

Ms. Harris: I just want to give a couple quick updates on the other remand topics, and the best place to see this is that table. _ Jenn did submit an additional definition for agritourism, which is at the top of that Synthesis Document. You can see both of those. It still includes the second paragraph, which is the three categories of agritourism – 1, 2, and 3. Jenn ____ may speak to that when we dive into that in terms of, like, the spirit of it. What you see in there might be different than what you see in your pack.

For number 2, the request from the Advisory Committee was for the County to follow up with the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, which they've done and can speak to when we get there. And – but didn't result in any changes to what is being proposed.

_____ to Tara on number 4, and then 6A we have these two maybe three ____ that we'll work through at the end to determine which represents, like, a majority of ____ in a ____ group and if there are _____ that you'd like to submit to the County.

Clarifying questions?

(silence)

Ms. Harris: Okay. Then the last request from the group was to hear from AAB, given that their letter is out. So I think this is a good time for Matt to share that. And, again, this is, I guess, just in the spirit of the more information for you guys _____.

Mr. Steinman: So I was shared out here today, because my first question in talking about this is, Does everybody want me to read what the AAB's letter was, or just kind of go over a brief of each of the – you may not _____.

Ms. Frye: I think it's a long letter, so I wouldn't read it. I mean, I guess I would be curious. My understanding is they're pretty much recommending the same thing as last time so maybe just any changes or context.

Mr. Steinman: He doesn't really change comparatively to, you know, the – what the AAB's come out with – what it covered the last several years. Ten years is what Michael says the AAB's been working on this. I _____. I've only been there since January so a lot of it – stuff that went on previous – you know, a lot of these decisions have been made outside of my timeframe there. But I guess, you know, I will put out the AAB's definition of agritourism, which is based on over 10 years of findings and came in large part from Marion County, Oregon. And that is it's "A common, farm-based, commercial

activity serving the public that promotes agriculture,” It “is directly related to onsite agricultural production, is incidental and subordinate to the working farm operation, and is operated by the owner or operator of the farm or family members. Celebratory gatherings, weddings, parties or similar uses that cause the property to act as an event center or that take place in structures specifically designed for such events are not agritourism.”

And so that is – again, that’s what they’ve taken as their – the AAB has taken as its stance on agritourism, the definition of which – yeah, basically they haven’t changed much. You know, it’s like some of us have talked about. It’s the big A, little t. It’s – you know, it’s based – agritourism from their point of view, from the AAB’s point of view, is in soil-based activities that are subservient to the commercial operation of the farm. And basically 1 through 5 kind of goes down through something similar in that regard. That same ideal, that same – that same ___, I should say. _____. Sorry, I had my paper sitting on my computer as I left today. I’m sorry. I can’t get it from here. But, yeah, for number 1 they would – there’d be proposed limited changes and believes that, you know, through all the work the County has done, the Planning Department have done, all the different groups that have done that. That definition sits within, you know, it sits within the GMA and SEPA requirements and keeps us out of state law challenges and supports agriculture.

So does anybody have any questions or thoughts on that, first off before I go on to 2 through 5? Any talk back?

(silence)

Mr. Steinman: Then number 2 is, you know, in regard to the Tulip Festival and, you know, similarly to what we all discussed here, the Tulip Festival is an event surrounding agricultural production. It’s based in the soil. The AAB feels as a whole that the Tulip Festival should be supported by agriculture in the valley. You know, it’s a big part of the fabric of the valley and doesn’t really.... I didn’t get a lot of response – there was a lot at the last meeting when we talked about, you know, the CAG’s recommendation to have the time limit on it versus just the month of April or just the timeframe there is. There wasn’t a lot of – you know, because we had the last meeting and then there were emails going back and forth about this, but there wasn’t a consensus on what people felt in terms of the date range that the CAG put onboard. So I can’t speak for the AAB members with that regard, but outside of that part of it the AAB and the CAG, I feel, are pretty similar to looking at the Tulip Festival’s – the huge theme and part of the valley’s culture and we should support it. So that’s number 2.

Number 3, the AAB talking about Ag-NRL lands east of the pipeline; believes that those, like in a ___, those are still NRL lands. They should be looked at differently. Other than that and this most recent iteration of the AAB they decided to think about that. The scale should be lowered in terms of the _____ plan and parcels under 5 acres and under should be considered for part of the Ag-NRL zone because _____. I think we’re all in a pretty similar place on number 3.

I'm just kind of going down this one as well. So these are – number 4, Temporary Events. I think that's where the AAB feels that – let me just read number 4 real quickly. Where there are temporary events, temporary use standards are sufficiently detailed. They can be in Planning Commission proposal augments the details for temporary use permits. Temporary use have long since been coded as some agritourism venues have used them, establishing a precedence of template. The current code defines temporary events a special use defined as commercial use of property. Basically they feel that there should be that. Like we talked about, temporary events is not sufficiently defined in the code. That's where some of the problem comes into it. So we didn't have a long term. It was already, like, a 2 ½-hour meeting so there wasn't a long-term discussion on ideas and how to go about it. But we've been talking about, you know, considering _____. But there's acknowledgment that there could be a combine of how we look at – you know, how we look at the temporary events.

So I know the AAB in the next meeting now that once we have more of a draft and our ideas out there, we'll go back and could add and talk about it. But at this point in time, they created their – it needs to be relooked at, but not – but didn't have a defining this-is-what-we-should-do. Again, this group has been meeting every two weeks and the AAB is once a month with set schedules already in place, so this group has looked at this particular topic in recent times in the last year, a lot _____. So I don't have as much information as I would like in that regard how the AAB _____. But there was a ___ that did acknowledge that. It's something that should be looked at ___.

And then number 5, they – the AAB acknowledged that the County wants – should be doing everything we can to keep from getting into a situation like happened in Sammamish Valley, where something has to go all the way to the Supreme Court. And, you know, that comes back to number 1 and then number 4, and like having a good definition of agritourism and in codes that are enforceable, that are understood and enforcement to follow, so we don't get in a situation where you have rogue operators, whatever they do. You know, what – that are outside the line of the scope of law and then putting the County in a position where they have to make decisions on what to do. You know, after a precedence has been, in essence, set. So ___ being _____. Looking at these laws is a good thing to be doing so that we don't – the County doesn't find itself in a place of being sued or, you know, having to use the law – you know, go through legal channels to define....

Mr. Ottesen: There's a – I can see it in a through line between 2 and 4, with respect to the Tulip Festival. And there's – they're saying that the – essentially the ag accessory uses to the AAB's mind is sufficient coverage for Tulip Festival activities. And from our conversations here, I assume that kind of two-month – you know, March 15th to May 15th carve-out _____ all the other activities around that that would – historically they're understaying the permit, right? Or in theory should have been under a special use permit, but now we're looking for kind of a blank carve-out for that, for the Tulip Festival. And so if you just go by the ag accessory use, that none of that would today – none of these would be allowed under the ag accessory use. And if it did fall or got a viewing or U-Pick,

I think they're missing – they're missing a piece in terms of the totality of what the Tulip Festival is involved with and what it needs to be – what those farms have been doing – covered – is not fully covered under _____ because _____.

Mr. Steinman: You know, the AAB did have a long conversation on that.

Mr. Ottesen: Yeah.

Mr. Steinman: There's a couple _____. No, there shouldn't be a time definition no matter what _____. (inaudible)

Mr. Ottesen: I know. I get that. I think just if we enforce stricter guidance going forward, but you don't – by my interpretation, not having a time limit works against the Tulip Festival _____ you're limited to that whole _____ or _____ from _____ for every individual _____ might do within that timeframe.

Mr. Steinman: Yeah, I agree. That was brought up and talked about previously. It was something that _____. Some of the more long termers _____. But I – so I guess by taking my AAB hat off, I understand where you're coming from as well, where this group has come from that it resolves some of the challenges. There were concerns from other members of that group that well, if we do that then who is giving – is it, like, _____? And _____.

Is there – sorry, Amy. I didn't want to call you out, but is there anything – that's probably the gist of what we – I mean, it was kind of – it wasn't glossed over in that conversation, but there was a lot for you to know in a short time, it felt like. Would you say there's something else that's missing, looking back at that?

Ms. Frye: I don't think so. I mean, I tend to agree – and this is kind of the same reason I maybe took issue with their proposal originally. It's not that I disagree in theory with a lot of it. It's just that I think it missed some important things.

Mr. Steinman: Yeah.

Ms. Frye: It just needed to have more context to be flushed out, so I'm hoping we can get some of that.

Mr. Steinman: That's kind of how it felt, and again a lot of these points and definitions were made on the AAB _____ long conversations before I was a part of it, _____ background context on that situation. On that, I would be – I would be speaking _____.

Mr. Ottesen: Maybe it's something in our _____ – _____ our recommendation on that item that if the County's revising its, you know, its use of that number of use permits then there needs to be attention to the implications of that for the Tulip Festival if the old ways are no longer an option. Right? They say, Well, the old ways are fine but that's not how I

understand the plan going forward. There needs to be a – unless they want to make it that onerous for Tulip Festival farms to hold anything that's not portable for viewing as an event related to that. That needs to be addressed – that comprehensive _____ - 100%.

Ms. Frye: I mean, if that's – Planning and Development, as they work on writing _____ just make a lot of work.

Mr. Steinman: But I mean, it's good to be noting that we're talking about it and acknowledging that it could – that the ____ could cause challenges and we need to – that's fine. That's fine. Thank you.

Any other questions or thoughts regarding the AAB?

(silence)

Ms. Harris: I just want to honor what you said at the beginning, which is this group has had a lot of thoughtful conversation and you're going on, like, 24 hours of meeting together on this topic. So I guess I just want to reinforce, like, the intentionality that you have given to a lot of these topics and finding, like, nuances, loopholes, and challenges like you described to Kai, and how to communicate that best to the County – which I think you've done. You have 24 hours of civil service hopefully! Karma doesn't give you jury duty!

(laughter)

Ms. Harris: But I just want to – I want to, you know, honor that as we move into conversations. I don't like figuring out these nuances of these couple is _____ really, like, intentional and thoughtful about the implications of pieces are and giving ____ actionable recommendations to the County in places that you see things aren't working: What is the solution and what could you propose as an alternative? And it might not even be like a perfectly flushed out alternative, but it's the start of something that can, like, grow into codes like that.

Mr. Ottesen: (incomprehensible)

Ms. Harris: Yes. And I guess in that spirit we talked a little bit at the last meeting about, like, "good enough, not perfect," or what can you live with? And I think, you know, we have 2 ½ hours left together today and getting as much down as you can that you like and you can live with. Or do you think it's like the start of a seed of something Tara can work on? And documenting the whys behind that, too, like you just described, Kai. If you see a challenge – a recommendation, like, an active recommendation is one thing and if you see a challenge that you're trying to avoid, even if you don't have a perfect solution for it, documenting that – Tara's hearing all of this and she'll have all these recordings to go back to and documenting it in writing in places you think that's helpful, is something that she's asked for.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, I guess I have one thought I had coming into this meeting, as, again, we have very limited time and a lot to cover. Like, perhaps it's less critical if we get the exact wording right on things but, like, can we at least try and clarify where we're in alignment – or again, the majority in alignment – and what we're going to convey as far as principles go?

Ms. Satushek: That would be most useful for me.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, like, let's not agonize over a specific word necessarily, you know. We put up some, like, Hey, are we in agreement on this or, you know, where do we need to come to a vote? Things like that.

Ms. Harris: Well, in that spirit, we have kind of four topics to work on. One and 4 feel connected. Two feels like the least amount of, like, change has occurred since the last meeting. I'm curious if you want to dive into 1 and 4 as nuance pieces? Do you want to talk about 2 while we just had a bit of a conversation about it – and potentially cross that one off the list? Where would you like to start?

Ms. Frye: I'd like to start with 2 and 6. Like maybe those are lower hanging fruit? Then the rest of the time ____ with 4.

Ms. Harris: That sounds good. I am going to give you a time cap on 6 because I know it's lower priority for the County and I want to make sure we have time. So let's – we can decide the time limits when we get there. Okay.

Nicole, do you want to give an update? I mean, you were able to connect with Tara between the meetings just about the County's, like, time window _____.

Ms. Roozen: Yeah, I think, you know, meeting with the nuance of whether in the crop of the tulips obviously that can take place prior to April 1st and last longer than April 30th, so that's where we, you know, came together as a tulip festival board and recommended kind of the longer duration of just the month of April. And then it sounds like just based on the meeting that I wasn't able to attend last week that the recommendation was to narrow it a little bit further down and land it on this March 15th through May 15th, which I think is fine. I think that gives enough of a window to account for that, you know, _____ the bloom being early or later. Yeah, I think that was kind of the only change.

Ms. Satushek: Yeah, and also you added some ____ language too but I added in for participation, just clarifying – further clarifying – like, other participants. So you added “provided they meet” _____. The point is to create something that would _____ because a lot of the public health and safety issues are addressed at a higher level with the County and the state and the local jurisdictions. But as far as those that would be participating, you called out including part of the requirement for participation would be ____ County and state requirements for health, safety, access of parking – rather, just adding strength to the language that was already there.

Ms. Roozen: Yeah. _____. I mean, the thought gets back to a little bit of what – you know, to be part of the Tulip Festival isn't just a free-for-all. , You know, we still want to ensure that everyone who's following due diligence and adhering to the other established code and regulations which we would just expect that if you are wanting to participate in the Tulip Festival that you are also, you know, complying to these things. So just making sure that that was clear and understood that it's not just, you know, you can pop up anything on ag land and participate in the Tulip Festival just makes me have this kind of blanketed exemption.

Ms. Satushek: And then in number 5 you added the suggested language – and I _____ scroll down. But it talks about – basically what you're just saying, that those imply – I'll just read it out loud. "Participation in the Tulip Festival doesn't imply automatic approval for activity on all land types, but rather support ongoing collaboration with Skagit County Planning staff and decision-makers to ensure festival participation is done responsibly and aligns with the long term preservation of agricultural viability. Yeah.

Ms. Satushek: All that was very good language.

Ms. Roozen: Yes, thank you for that. Sometimes when I write things, it's better then. But that's essentially what I'm trying to convey, yes.

Ms. Harris: At the last meeting there was, like, general agreement but _____ Tulip Festival in the county. Any questions about the additional language or changes?

Ms. Frye: I think it addresses some of the maybe concerns about like that kind of free-for-all idea, which I think is – I think most us are very supportive in some way of like, the Tulip Festival obviously being able to continue and just like – I guess maybe my remaining question is just on, like, a larger scale: How is the Tulip Festival Board and/or the County planning – like, if the Tulip Festival were to double in size – _____. I do know from other farms in the area there's concerns about, like, traffic and all that. So, like, what does the long term, strategic planning look like for the Tulip Festival? If there are plans for growth, how is that done in a way that doesn't have negative impacts? That's gonna make it a piece that is missing, of, like, how does that get addressed? Because my guess is it's grown over the years. Like _____ used to grow.

Ms. Roozen: There's some – you know, there's fewer tulips being produced in the county. There's a fewer number of farms. So in some ways that has decreased, but obviously the notoriety of the Tulip Festival has grown and become more popular. I think, you know, frankly we don't have a long-term vision of scaling the Tulip Festival. A lot of that depends again on how, like, the production of tulips in the valley. We do have some guidelines around, for instance, board participation, but, you know, if you were to stand up a tulip farm it needs to be at least five acres and in production from work in five years, so it's this kind of five and five rule. We don't currently have guidelines around if you were to stand up a farm, do you get recognized then as part of the Tulip Festival? And that's something

that we'll continue to have dialogue on. I think overall, you know, as we look to perhaps expand our marketing reach and appeal to people to draw people to the county, we definitely would want to continue those conversations on what that look likes in terms of impact to traffic and even law enforcement. We have a big strategy meeting every year with the Sheriff's Department and the fire department and Commissioners to just make sure that we are talking about all these things. So I think it's a good point. I don't have a straightforward, you know, five-year strategy plan for scaling the festival. At this point it feels like it's already quite large. We don't necessarily have an intentional goal to make it even bigger. But that's not to say, again, you know, if someone is wanting to start running tulips in bulk production, that's kind of outside of the Tulip Festival itself, and then I think the board maybe would make some guidelines around that – recognition from the board of what that might look like.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, I think that's my only thing is I'm not a flag for the County. I'm, like – you know, Don brought up at the Ag – Don McMoran brought up at the AAB meeting of, like, at what point do you start maybe having some roads be one-way during that time. It sounds like the *County* might need to come in and do a little more management of, like, How is this affecting on a countywide level, at least in a certain area? That seems like beyond the scope of what should be a larger discussion of stakeholders.

Mr. Steinman: On that topic, that was a question that was brought up by ____ and two others when the conversation briefly went to just a fulltime _____. And so the concern of the two – the Festival concerns were, What does that entail in terms of giving the operators the ability – you know, outside of the farms – an ability to set up and run a stand selling food and this or that and some knowledge of that? There are some of those that just happened and should be policed by the County. And they're not any event's concern from some farm, some of the farmers. So if we give a blanket timeframe, does that mean everything's allowed or not? So that was a concern brought from the AAB.

Ms. Frye: I think that comes from your – like, who's officially part of the Tulip Festival. It's not like if you guys are doing it and just vetting that. And, like, maybe there's a way to clarify, like the intention of the timeframe is to acknowledge the season, to fill a two-month period with activities. So if there's a way to, like, make that intention clearer but not too elaborate. To extend two months. It might start earlier _____.

Ms. Roozen: And most of – I mean, mind you, we really try to push the festival is meant to be a countywide celebration. So beyond any use on ag land, there's a *lot* of events that take place off of ag land that we fully want to always be able to support because it's such a way that – you know, several organizations are people with Kiwanis and a barbeque, for instance, takes place, and that's their biggest, you know, fund raiser for that organization. So also just being mindful of the fact that we _____ during that really lucrative two-month period countywide can help kind of take advantage of the fact that we have this thing _____. But, yeah, I think, you know, having these guidelines around that – it shouldn't be a free-for-all _____. There needs to be, you know, regulations and some, you know, work put in place for those operating farms and utilize the ag land. There's an expectation that those folks are doing due diligence too.

Ms. Frye: I think the gist _____ the gist of our written recommendation is that extending to a two-month window and any temporary use caps that are put in place don't fly for the Tulip Festival. So I think, yeah, I think that's basically the gist we're voting on and then there's some other context that Tara's noted – right? I would (wouldn't??) feel right voting on that.

Ms. Roozen: (inaudible)

Mr. Steinman: Yeah, absolutely. He was _____.

Mr. Ottesen: (incomprehensible)

Mr. Steinman: Yeah. Some people just go out, see an opportunity and take it. Sometimes it was also being highlighted by the AAB. It's like it – well, the County _____. It's just, like, all of us looking at that reality.

Ms. Harris: I hear – were you just making an informal motion to move towards a vote? Is anyone not ready to do that?

Mr. Morrison: So I've just got a clarifying question, I guess. The date's one thing but what falls under what's allowed – is the Tulip Festival board a governing deal or is the County ultimately in this whole process under agritourism and the definitions of what can be allowed on the farms still –

Ms. Roozen: I would say the latter. I mean, we don't – the Tulip Festival doesn't want to get into a position of defining _____. We're not going to get involved in code and zoning and all of that stuff, so – and I think that's what I've tried to make clear in my language that I added, is that we *expect* all operators to be following all of the do/don't – the process that – I don't even know what that is. The standard –

Mr. Morrison: Well, let's just pick on food vendors. So let's just say that food vendors are – in the course of – under agritourism, if they're allowed to have to go through quite a few permitting, versus just being outright allowed.

Ms. Roozen: Correct. That would be the expectation.

Mr. Morrison: Okay.

Ms. Keltz: And are you talking *on* the farms or just out in the ag area? Because, like, the farms bring on food during that month.

Mr. Morrison: Right.

Ms. Keltz: But then there's also people that set up hot dogs.

Mr. Morrison: They're not on farms?

Ms. Keltz: I'm talking tulip farms.

Mr. Morrison: Yeah.

Ms. Keltz: Like the tulip __ __, but I think other things have been popped up in other ____. So I don't know if those are two separate –

Mr. Morrison: I guess what I'm really saying is that the same rules should apply to farmers or agritourism operators as – and during the Tulip Festival is as good as any other time of the year.

Ms. Frye: Maybe you'll get a pass on your health inspection for food – _____.

Ms. Keltz: I'm not expecting even the tulip farms to get a pass on that. I think everyone's _____, like all that kind of stuff. Yeah, that's a state license that you have to have. The Health Department – you have to get your health permits.

Mr. Morrison: But we have – they haven't – we, us, the County hasn't defined all of those rules as far as gatherings, how large they're going to be, and what process they may have to go through – administrative or Hearing Examiner, depending on how large events are.

Ms. Frye: You think that's _____ that that's where the exception is, on number of days – again, it's – that's a little murky because we haven't defined that yet.

Mr. Steinman: that comes back to number 4, it seems like – the agritourism events 1, 2, and 3. It sounds like you're asking if the tulip farms are still required to go through the steps of ag 1, 2, and 3 –

Mr. Morrison: Right. Yeah, that's kind of what I'm saying.

Mr. Steinman: – in terms of their food production and stuff. And proof of that in production could be events not based on the soil.

Mr. Morrison: Right.

Ms. Frye: We understand since tulip farms have been able to go through the VCA process as well, so they kind of fall under that same _____. They're kind of grandfathered in because that's an existing, established business activity. Is that –

Ms. Satushek: I don't know. That's in a separate process that I haven't really been fully engaged in, but those that do have a VCA would be able to continue if they met the requirements of it.

Ms. Keltz: Is that process still happening? Because it's my understanding that Matt's not doing that anymore. Is someone else doing that?

Ms. Frye: Jack is. Because the deadline closed so everyone had to have their application in.

(several incomprehensible comments)

Ms. Frye: Yeah, going through the process of it. I mean, I think that could be one flag or caveat. I mean, obviously if a new tulip farm comes in, like, they're going to have to comply with whatever 1, 2, 3 levels, and it seems like the existing ones are getting a pass with their VCA process anyway. Yeah, I don't – that's –

Mr. Ottesen: But a farm that just *happens* to be growing tulips can't come in and start growing and claim the kind of, you know, a Tulip Festival exemption just because it's happening during that span of time.

Ms. Roozen: Yes, I would agree. We need to have these guidelines in place. All the licensing, all the – and I'm not actually farming, so I can't speak to all of that. So yeah, there's not just this blanket – We're the Tulip Festival; we've got this kind of agreement but, you know, we don't have the _____. We would expect that at any farm that's trying to be established with their – all their due diligence required to _____ within established –

Ms. Satushek: _____ Tulip Festival too, is it's unique in the sense that it has ongoing communication with traffic, fire, and public health, where some other _____ agritourism activities may not have that. So the main concern about traffic, traffic flows, traffic concerns/impacts, and how the count is addressed. So that's one thing I do want to tell you about this, is that it's – a lot of agritourism things _____ it's become an issue. Obviously it's the impacts to surrounding land – *possible* impacts just, you know, mixed up. Possible land use conflicts with mixed types of uses that are not only next to each other but with the _____ Tulip Festival, my understanding – and Commissioner Browning brought this up at the AAB – is that there's a lot of dialogue that goes ahead before the Festival happens to get ahead of a lot of these anticipated impacts regarding public health and safety and traffic and any kind of possible land use conflicts. So that might be something. I don't want to speak for you, but it might be something to add, just like there needs to be more communication with farmers or farming representatives or the AAB – something to that effect that would allow them to engage with the planning process.

Ms. Frye: _____ that would be appreciated. And I kind of have been surprised there's not one of the tulip farms on the AAB, or some more information there. Because I think it would mean a lot to some of the farms to be like, Hey, Tulip Festival's coming up. We know there's going to be a lot of traffic. You know, I think someone just brought up that one point: Okay, well, at what point do you start to need to have people parking somewhere else and doing shuttle buses around. Again, in growth in the future. But...

Mr. Steinman: Seems like a great subcommittee that should _____, or at least something that should have been here _____. I agree. Seems like there should have been something ____.

Ms. Harris: I have a clarifying question about this recommendation, and I think it gets to some of what you're talking about, like, Who does this cover? It calls out the Tulip Festival partner operation and the Tulip Festival participants. Is that this – are they used interchangeably or do those have specific definitions, Nicole?

Ms. Roozen: The participants versus workers?

Ms. Harris: Yeah. I ask because I think what this does is in the recommendation you currently have has, like, set that boundary to say this doesn't apply to anyone operating anywhere specifically, like – and I just wanted – I felt like we should be clear – applies to Tulip Festival partner operation between the state and would apply to participants throughout the geographic extent. I *think* the intent of this was that these were the same group of people. And it could even say date range and would apply throughout the geographic extent.

Ms. Roozen: Yeah. I think the – in my mind – I wish Rob was here – I'm pretty sure that intent was to be more for the farm operations, whereas the participants throughout the geographic extent of Skagit lands would be the various participants that aren't necessarily the farm operators. But I can go back and clarify that.

Ms. Harris: I do think the group is ready to move towards – I don't want to complicate _____. The group is ready to move toward their position on this without that, but I would recommend, like, in the spirit of clear language that if those two groups of people that this – I think what the spirit of both of those sentences is that it clarifies what you're – what some of the concerns I've heard – folks are operating outside of the Tulip Festival.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, I would –

Ms. Keltz: So the day limit or the event limitation would apply to sponsors who want to do something during the month of April. So they'd only be able to do it on days of the festival. Is that what I'm meaning?

Ms. Roozen: No. It would be open. We want to make sure that it's a – it's open to anyone who – any sponsors would be able to also fall within this two-month grace period essentially.

Ms. Matheson: It could even be like the SBTM, like vetted participants maybe, or – and then change the top one to, like, the farm operators. I think it's only separate.

Ms. Keltz: It's a little confusing with this – this *would* apply on the last line. It seems confusing to me. So is it the special use permits *should not* apply to the partner operations between – but this *would* apply to –

Ms. Frye: I think it's saying –

(several female voices speaking incomprehensively)

Ms. Keltz: Maybe it's just the permits do not apply to partners, or even growers and sponsors. So then it's ___ to

(inaudible comments)

Mr. Steinman: We say sponsors allowing to have – so what does that exactly mean? Does that mean outside organizations not farms and then the whole _____ entirety of the company. I mean, who would need to sponsor –

Ms. Frye: It's not the grower.

Mr. Steinman: Yeah, we know the growers.

Ms. Roozen: Yeah, our sponsors are anywhere from, you know, any of our hoteliers to other nonprofits that are – like the Kiwanis group, for instance.

Ms. Frye: Well, they're doing it even on ag lands. Doesn't even matter so it's like really – we're just a –

Ms. Roozen: The only thing – I mean, like Christensen's uses the winery and has the Pacific Northwest market. I believe that takes place in the entire month of April. (incomprehensible) And then Schuh Farms, the art and the pickle thing.

Ms. Frye: Right. I guess I think of them as growers but they're not growing tulips.

Ms. Roozen: Yeah.

(several people speak at once)

Mr. Steinman: I feel it should be set up in a way that's talking about partner operations, which I would consider a farm – you know, farming operations but other, you know. Like other participants or vendors that are not farms should not be allowed to pass on Ag-NRL land, or else that's kind of giving the Tulip Festival exactly what we all said they wouldn't be, which is an ability to offer organizations that aren't farms to do events on Ag-NRL land without having to go through the standard – you know, like everybody else has to go through. So I feel I'm being – that was kind of the crux of what some of us were talking about initially, is that we don't think – and correct me if I _____ you don't want to have the ability to give out, to hand out to organizations that aren't farms the ability to _____ that timeframe.

Ms. Satushek: Yeah, I don't think that would happen, right, because the operator's still the owner, and so they would still be the liable party. So they may subcontract out, like, a food vendor but still *they're* the operator. Is that the crux?

Mr. Steinman: Well, I agree with that, but in the last sentence says "participants," and so I would consider "participants" to be sponsors, as well.

Ms. Satushek: I think – because, yeah, because when Rob mentioned he said that there's a difference between participants according to the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, that there's a terminology that they use, and "partners."

Mr. Ottesen: The way it reads right now, I don't think there's a – there's nothing connecting those - that participant activity to the farms of the partners. There's nothing that said that it has to be operated on any land but just has to be on the land of a Tulip Festival member. Right now it could be anywhere _____.

Mr. Steinman: Yeah. It's been applied to SBT and participants throughout the geographic extent that Skagit plans, including Ag-NRL lands. So the participants are a hotel vendor, it directly states that they can have events on Ag-NRL land the way it's written currently

Mr. Ottesen: I don't think I can support it as written.

Ms. Roozen: That's not the intent of that line. We're not trying to say that a hotel could, like, pop up something on ag land and be –

Mr. Steinman: I agree with _____, but that wasn't a detail of –

(sounds of assent)

Ms. Satushek: I'd encourage you to come up with that language and again and he had mentioned, like, not get ___ up on the wordsmithing, as far as just communicating the intent because the worst thing will happen at the department level.

Ms. Roozen: I mean, I would be comfortable with just removing that last sentence and the current ___ should not apply to the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival partnering farm operations between March 15th and May 15th.

Ms. Harris: I will say, just for clarity, if people are thinking about – so I did – with the intent of giving you something to vote on, I pulled sentences up. So this wasn't a paragraph that Rob wrote per se. I mean it's all copied in. It's not my language. But I was the one who copied in that last sentence, so I just want you to know that. If you decide to take it out, _____. I was just trying to get, like, the spirit of the following sections of the _____. So I think that's really appropriate if the group wants to – if that is captured in the original context. I just _____.

Ms. Roozen: _____ if the group is comfortable with that so we can vote, and then _____ our next meeting, so I don't want to take that away.

Mr. Ottesen: _No, that makes sense to me. I'm happy, like, letting the County Planning figure it out from there how this impacts, say, you know, vendors operating on or with a Tulip Festival farms connected to the Tulip Festival. Yeah, I don't want to open that gate in our recommendation. I'd rather get it sorted out on the level.

Ms. Keltz: But we'll note, like, the spirit of all this, so when the final language comes out we can make sure that it really means what the spirit of this conversation was about.

Ms. Harris: (incomprehensible)

Ms. Frye: Yeah. It's like I would like to give the County time to work on stuff and bring it back to us. It's almost like it'd be nicer to vote the – you know, its' against their affirmation at that point. It's, like, we're gonna vote kind of in principle right now. What are we saying. But again, devil's in the details. My understanding's we're having a meeting, as yet to be scheduled, once there's actual language to review. And that'll be another chance for feedback.

Ms. Satushek: Correct. In addition to the legislative process, that the Planning Commission, which has three sessions – the work session, public hearing and deliberations – and then the Board of County Commissioners. So there's going to be – in addition there's going to be a long _____. So this purpose – again, the purpose of this group is to be that extra public comment layer. So I appreciate that. I hope that _____, and that would go then through the legislative process.

Ms. Harris: So with that change and in the spirit of putting the principle over specific language, do you folks feel like they're ready to take a vote on this? I'll just say, Any objections to have it up there?

(silence)

Ms. Harris: Okay. Hearing none, I think this will move forward into the final – into being considered _____ recommendation 35.

It's 10:08. Let's take – let's take it to a break. Do you want a break? We'll take _____, but let's take 12 minutes to touch on 6 before we take a break. We'll see where we ae at 12 minutes. That's 10:20. And then I'll give you a short break after that before we dive into 1 and 4.

Okay, so we left the last meeting with kind of three proposals on the table, one a verbal proposal and two written proposals. The first is the creation of a new board. They all are in alignment in my observation around just representation of agritourism over the long term, and three of our ____ have actually made that happen. So I just want to recommend that, kind of like where the alignment is. One being the creation of a new board; two being

the use of the AAB; and three, this idea of a limited time working group that would then transfer today.

So I guess I'd like to open the board to anyone who made specific edits and, Jessie, you were talking about working on one a little bit. _____ and ____ have updates too. Do you have anything you want to share with the group on –

Ms. Anderson: On which –

Ms. Harris: 6A.

Ms. Anderson: So, I mean, Kristen and I did not get a chance to touch base this week, but she and I discussed here in the last meeting that a possible alternative would be to potentially have a group meet on agritourism, you know, through the _____. But we were still kind of unclear on who that group would work for **too** and how it would be structured. But that was just kind of an alternative not discussed briefly but whether, I guess, who that _____ would report to and if there was a budget for it.

Ms. Harris: Mm-hmm. Okay. So that's almost a first proposal. _____.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, I guess my – I think I want to kind of withdraw my proposal more or less. I mean, I can see pros and cons to that approach but I think, you know, hearing last time that, like, pragmatically it's very unlikely the County is going to create a new board, and also, I think, there are some concerns – shared concerns – about agritourism must be part of agriculture. So there's already a board for that and there could be other discussion. You know, it's kind of beyond the scope of this group to talk about maybe like representation on AAB and whatnot. So I guess I want you to withdraw that.

Ms. Harris: I think you have two approaches here. One is to, like, make this a recommendation like the rest of the recommendations. **The other is to do a 360 worldview acknowledgment alignment on the idea of representation and that there would be a few ways to approach that**, and you put that as a bullet point in a cover letter. Any thoughts on, like, which direction you'd like to go in that respect? _____.

Ms. Frye: It'd be, like, specific – a non-vote? Like we're not putting forward a proposal on this. Like, we're saying, you know, there should be some ongoing discussion that could happen multiple ways as yet to be determined.

Mr. Morrison: Basically we aren't the ones trying to decide which way it should go?

Ms. Frye: Right. I mean, basically, in the absence of any proposal there's no –

Mr. Morrison: Hmm.

Ms. Frye: There's no, like, dedicated feature home for agritourism discussion outside of the discussion that's already happening at the AAB and the Planning Department. And so

kind of like recommending no change, right? There could be other avenues for tourism to strike a committee, you know. But, yeah, I would definitely recommend no voting on that. I would not put that forward at this point, the creation of ____ board.

Ms. Roozen: Well, are we saying – we're not – we're acknowledging them. I think that – are we in line that there's agreement that there should be some sort of group that continues to talk about agritourism, but at this point we don't know what the solve is for that, whether that's established meeting of additional – which it sounds like maybe that wouldn't work or, you know, even from AAB. We don't know what that solve is but we acknowledge that there should probably be ongoing conversations and representation of various groups to come together and talk about agritourism. Yeah, I mean, like the critique says.

Ms. Frye: I think I would say, like, I don't know that it needs to be a *new* group. I think there should be ongoing discussion. Where and how that happens, and whether that is a County-sponsored group or an informal group. I think that's, like, beyond our scope but I don't agree. I don't necessarily agree that it needs to be a separate group, but, yeah –

Ms. Roozen: Not a separate group. There needs to be some sort of –

Ms. Frye: It's going to continue to be _____.

Ms. Roozen: Yeah, exactly.

Ms. Frye: Although vocally less than there has been ____.

Mr. Steinman: I would challenge the AAB to ____ create a subcommittee agri tourism.

Ms. Frye: Right, separate from just land use.

Mr. Steinman: Yeah, exactly. It's definitely something that's – there needs to be representation on the AAB, in my opinion, and actually add that diversity for the County, for the Commissioners to hear that voice and to give it credence. There's been a lot of great discussions here. I think we've all been able to reach out and see, listen to each other's positions. I don't think that should stop but the County should definitely take – the Commissioners should take a step forward and try to help fix the situation from a representation _____. I'm not saying we should vote on that, but I would ask the Commissioners to do that. Communication's the best way to avoid conflict, and if we're not having communication then we're going to have conflict. I know all the challenges that have gone on in the past being from a county in the ____ area, but I don't – we've got to communicate somehow because we're all in this together.

Ms. Frye: Well, I guess I'm recommending that we sunset that specific proposal and maybe hearing that there's some shared agreement, that this will be an ongoing discussion that the County should consider how to support moving forward.

Mr. Ottesen: _____ address the concerns in and around agritourism.

Ms. Harris: Are there objections? Does anyone feel strongly that you'd like to move this forward? Any one of these existing recommendations? Specifically I ask this as the newest, the creation of a new board. There is a lot of good, like, additional context in here – your rationale, your principles – and how you'd like to incorporate that and can still be submitted to the County for that _____.

Ms. Keltz: Yeah, I think there's a conversation that can be had or what it looks like moving forward. _____.

Mr. Morrison: So what you suggested is not creating a new committee or board but encouraging better discussion through the AAB and the Commissioners.

Ms. Frye: And just leave it to the County if there's other venues that this discussion can happen.

Ms. Keltz: I don't think it should be, like, out of, like just we don't want a new thing created or we want the _____. We need to leave it open for discussion on different ways to do it.

Ms. Frye: I'm just proposing the status quo at this point – like, just not voting on this, hearing there's a desire to keep talking about it. But it's like beyond our scope, really, to determine the best way for that to happen.

Ms. Anderson: I think it's okay to say that we recommend long-term agritourism representation and discussion and maybe it's okay that we don't have the answer exactly as to how that's going to transpire. But something has been missing from the status quo. That's why we're here. And so how can – you know, how can we continue this discussion? Depending on what's happening with this **verging** topic, I think it's okay to say we'd still recommend that, even if we don't have an exact answer or the platform for how that would take place. But just so the County's _____ important.

Ms. Frye: _Terrific. Like, I mean, Tara, are you – like, you're hearing that?

Ms. Satushek: Yeah.

Ms. Frye: I still feel like that's maybe something we could put in the cover letter, just like, we support some sort of ongoing discussion.

Ms. Satushek: Yeah.

Ms. Frye: I don't know if it needs to go beyond that.

Ms. Satushek: Because what I have is, like, agritourism representation needs to happen, but not sure how or where, and that would be flushed out with the County and maybe

outside agency like the Skagit Valley Tourism Bureau like that. How, like, this is a need but we don't know how, I think is how I'm looking at it. And I don't know how either. That's why it would be good to, like, bring it back to the table, back to the County and other people will play. You know, even the Commissioners too. Reach out to these groups, so, I guess, kind of recommend that the – acknowledging that there's a need but not sure how that need will be met but the Department or the County should further study it. I think it's a general-enough recommendation, or just something like you had mentioned – the sunset. We could just add – or you guys could add your findings for more work to be done or things that may have come out during this process _____. Does that capture what I'm hearing?

(sounds of assent)

Mr. Morrison: Tara, I don't know. I'm just gonna sort of abstain from that because I have some strong feelings like going back to one of the opening statements here was that the AAB's been working on this for maybe 10 years. I don't know – at least for a good five. And there's been ample opportunity for all the above, plus there's been stakeholder groups held by outside organizations like SPF and – I don't know. Lots of community forums and all kinds of news reports and stuff that this seems like we go around in circles. But anyway, I'm not going to be a – going to stop it, the motion or whatever. But I just want to get that on the record. I think we've had a lot of – there's a system in place right now and I think we need to leave that there and there could be modifications to it to make it work better.

Ms. Anderson: Which I think we're all kind of saying that. No one's saying they want to do away with the AAB and –

Ms. Roozen: What I'm hearing is that everyone in this room agrees that there needs to be ongoing discussion around agritourism, that we don't want to get in this place again where we're having these, like, separate groups that have differently ____, those groups together to make sure that we're hearing each other's voices and coming together, communicating. But what form that takes, whether it is – to your point, there's established; there's the AAB. What that looks like, we're not here to declare that, but something needs to change because what's been going on thus far isn't working. So I don't want to – I think we all want that to be very clear that there needs to be some sort of change to make sure that this conversation continues.

Ms. Anderson: Yeah.

Ms. Harris: I have a recommendation. It – Amy has suggested submitting this like a formal recommendation and I'm seeing a lot of head nods around the room for putting what you just described in the cover letter. Jessie, I hear the strongest support for, like, making sure that's documented really well. If I could work with you and Nicole on just – during the – as we, like, build up that cover letter that the most important language in here is included in there and you'll all have a chance to review that cover letter.

Ms. Roozen: You mean like sunseting this as 6A versus, like, including it in the cover letter? I guess I'm not clear on that.

Ms. Harris: I think it – yeah. Let's see. There's – when we discussed that for 6B last time, I think the recognition was just like find the alignment; that this is an important issue; and then leave it to the County rather than, like, a specific response to a remand topic. I see it as being just like a shorter description of what it is. I think the other approach is that those of you who called it, the most committed to this could take this back and pull out, like – what you don't have right now is a full – is kind of a comprehensive document that describes the principle without a specific recommendation or with outline. I think you have two approaches. One, that I'm offering to do, is like a simple paragraph in the cover letter. The other is to actually workshop this recommendation and come back to the group with something very ___ to review. So I think _____ is probably the answer to your question. You do have a lot of – in my opinion – like, good content and principle and like the spirit in this document that Rob originally developed. You don't necessarily – you lose, like, the formal submission of that to the County if you just put a small blurb in the cover letter or if you – or you as a group feel it's important ___ that language, and you'll include that in kind of your packet of recommendations. This is something that's evolving a little bit as this group, like, What do these recommendations look like?

Ms. Roozen: Meg? Well, I just think to Darrin's point, I will be concerned, I guess, if we sunset this and just put it back in the cover letter and then put it – you know, put that forward and then – *then* what? Is that going to get it us back to where it's already been going on? So I just – is that –

Mr. Morrison: Well, I don't know if that was my point, but I'm just not in favor of creating any kind of a new committee for sure. And I'm not hung up on letting the AAB have a subcommittee or the Commissioners convene some special purpose agritourism community forums or whatever it might be to get better discussion.

Ms. Frye: I mean, yeah. I guess my two cents is because this wasn't one of the specific topics we were asked to weigh in on, I don't feel like we should put forth a specific recommendation or vote on it. But I think, like the County has heard and it would be appropriate to put in the cover letter, that this will be, you know, we'll be in continuing conversation and we have a voice at the table to discuss it. But that's my two cents.

Mr. Steinman: It's clear to me.

Ms. Harris: Why don't we take 10 minutes? I'm going to pull away some of the language in here and see if I could give you a blurb that you would feel like captures the spirit, and we can take it from there. In your 10 minutes, take your break, get a scone and coffee, and also I encourage you to just take a look again at 1 and 4 so that your music – it's kind of like a working break. Your back's to the table, having _____ topics so that we can discuss them when we get back. It's 11 – it's 10:25 so let's come back at 10:35.

(break)

Ms. Harris: Okay. What I want to do is share with you an option. I think it would take another, like, five minutes to flush this out and you could either decide that it's close enough to vote on it today or that you'd like to move forward with just like something even shorter than a cover letter. I was hearing, like, a large amount of support for this topic as a whole moving us forward in some way. One thing I've done – so I haven't deleted any of the recommendations that are on the – they're still, like, fully flushed out recommendations of the Board and the other scenarios. One, this takes any mention of a specific advisory board, either short or long term, out. It doesn't reference the AAB specifically; rather just permanent __ boards _____ agritourism. I think what this does is describe where you are in alignment. Supports permanent, meaningful representation of agritourism. It keeps a lot of the content that Rob had originally drafted for you, which I've heard a lot of agreement on, including the taking out what a permanent advisory board would do but still be elements that would occur, just like representation _____. It would create _____, et cetera. __ rather than say a permanent –

(several people speaking at once)

Ms. Roozen: Ah, thank you.

Ms. Harris: Okay, so, for example, rather than say “a permanent advisory board would” it just says “permanent representation would ensure.” Having agreed with that before. I realize that. But in the spirit of, like, having something that you do include in your recommendations that will be for the County that the County could also – but what occurred _____ is that part of this is like your recommendation packet will be submitted to the Commissioners, and so something that's, like, really clearly laid out. I do think that without a specific recommendation, that something that is, like, one or two pages, probably carries more weight than the cover letter. I think either approach does essentially the same thing in terms of, like, sharing the principles of this group and the spirit of what you're going for.

So I don't want to spend a lot of time on this. What I want to do is just share that option with you and come back to it if you have anything to say.

Okay? Okay.

_____ and see what you are thinking when we get to the other two. Okay, so we've got 1 and 4. They relate to one another, particularly in that the two definitions that __ for one, both _____ in their first paragraph and they'd have the same second paragraph, which basically, as I read it, sets the stage for number 4.

Amy recommended at the beginning of the meeting that we don't focus so much on wordsmithing but about, like, the spirit and intent of each of these, and particularly, I think, in the definitions you have a couple of.... What I was hearing at the last meeting was approaching this in a few different ways, recognizing that there were some things in both definitions that either lean towards like more commercial-based or tourism-based

definition versus, like, really focusing on the ___ nature of agritourism. Looking at these two definitions here, do you feel like you're ready to move – would you like to hear from the folks who proposed these before you move forward on a vote for each of them? And again recognizing that there's, like, a lot of definitions out there by experts who write this kind of stuff and this is your best attempt at – right? – capturing just specifically the spirit of the conversation.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, I guess in some ways that was maybe going to be a proposal, is, like, can we try to throw out some bullet point statements and be, like – get the principles of what any definition should reflect? And where we're in agreement and leave the wordsmithing to the County? Because as we've discussed, there are many definitions. We don't necessarily need to come up with a new one. But I think, like, what we're going to capture is where there are the important principles. This is one option. Like, I could throw out some philosophy _____.

Mr. Steinman: Sure. Yeah.

Ms. Frye: I mean, Tara, what – like, what's most helpful?

Ms. Satushek: I think that was helpful. A definition would obviously be the most helpful, but if it's like any definition, agritourism must include these bullets. That's also helpful as well.

Ms. Frye: Because you could look through the list if we can submit the list of however many we have, you know. Again, I just know that agonizing over wordsmithing is maybe the best use of our time, but like figuring out where we're in agreement or where we're not and, like, where there might need to be a minority opinion or something.

Ms. Satushek: I find both would be helpful. The definition – there's been a lot of time spent on that. I wouldn't want to discount that work again but it's _____. It feels like that bullet point should be more helpful as well. I would, though, discourage from fixating on activities, and instead focusing on just a general definition or, you know, what would be required as a general definition.

Ms. Matheson: I mean, for me personally I feel like the definition number 1 is capturing a lot of the principles that I personally agree with. I was just – had some lingering questions on that and so I missed if we have, you know, draft editions within the definition of, like, what are we calling farm-based businesses and agriculture support services that's in code.

Ms. Frye: That's in code already. And I did clarify with Tara that it is helpful to leave that sentence and for that reason – because then it matches –

Ms. Matheson: Yeah.

Ms. Frye: – those definitions.

Ms. Harris: To your point, Amy, I think you could move forward with including both of these definitions if folks are supportive of them and a list of principles. Jessie, you were the one who provided the second definition between meetings. Can you reflect on – like, would you on that?

Ms. Anderson: Yeah, definitely. I think an important principle from me in a definition of agritourism is that it lists that agritourism is now linked between agriculture and tourism. When I, you know, looked through the list of definitions that we had looked at – our sources and researching on my own – it seems like the majority of them do list that – it links agriculture and tourism. And then also the majority of them said that it generates income for the farm. So I think those are two important portions of the majority of that definition that I've seen that helped clarify and worked for me. So the link between agriculture and tourism *and* that it's providing income. Most of the definitions didn't say that it will soon ____ the purposes of tracking ____ for education, for creation, for entertainment. Not always all three of those, but usually it aspired to.

Ms. Frye: Can you scroll us? We can see the response as well. I mean, even though that first definition doesn't use the word "link," I feel like it still makes it pretty clear that it's like – I guess I'm wondering what is lacking about the link there.

Mr. Morrison: Still we can add definitions to ____ the definition 1 and they'd still both work ____ together. You know, because then you're acknowledging there's – also acknowledging there's _____. That's important _____ area in rural character _____ remains and _____ primary agricultural use. _____ that with a paragraph – agritourism is separate and senior. Then go on with that paragraph. Agritourism *is* a business that links agriculture and tourism to attract visitors to a farm for the purposes of education and creation and entertaining the visitors while generating income for the farmer. They can both be put together. You know, that could just be one larger definition.

Ms. Frye: And I ask my only question on why I didn't specifically include the generating income part – is because I do think that there is ____ for educational events, tours, et cetera, that may not generate income. So if it *must* generate income, I think you're going to run into some – I mean, it could.

Mr. Ottesen: It *may*, but I don't think it *must*.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, as long as they *may* generate.

Ms. Anderson: I mean, I think most agritourism is generating.

Ms. Frye: Sure. I agree.

Ms. Anderson: Even the educational _____. Those people are paying _____.

Ms. Frye: I think that. We were going to hold a watercolor painting workshop and I wasn't going to charge the instructor for use of his time.

Ms. Anderson: I mean, most art workshops– you know, I think it's fine if you don't.

Ms. Frye: I want to put that requirement in there, and I'm hearing that most folks are thinking that they could be –

Mr. Ottesen: ____ options to schools that were not ____ charge or expectation of a likely charged business won't stand.

Ms. Anderson: Well, even those activities probably – I mean, I found when I give tourism ____ often those do turn into a financial – you know, I do reap the benefits later. You know, people come back.

Ms. Frye: Sure. I think it should just not be a requirement within the definition.

Ms. Harris: You could say – anyone could say it's likely to and they'd be right.

Ms. Satushek: Because I'm actually thinking about going out and farm in Whatcom County. I work with a nonprofit but they did agritourism, and so I was thinking, like, from a regulator point of view, if they were to come in, where would this fall ____? ____ goes through my mind so I really like that *may* _____. I mean, income *may* be generated but it may not always generate income.

Mr. Morrison: Mm-hmm.

Ms. Satushek: Also the other thing I was concerned about is, like, if it's like, Oh I have a nonprofit. But it's a ____ incurred donation of, like, a hundred dollars a head or something like that, you know, and had the loopholes. So instead of fixating on getting in, like, what is the activity that we're trying to – does that make sense? ____ trying to filter it in my mind when I was running some of these definitions through certain scenarios. I was thinking about nonprofits.

Mr. Morrison: I think it's confusing if you combine these two. The way the first definition's written, the last sentence: "Agritourism is separate and distinct from a farm-based business." And then if you add the definition in 2, where agritourism is a business that links agriculture, I don't know how you distinctly tell the two apart.

Ms. Anderson: Some of the definitions I saw ____ commercial enterprise. So ____ business twice for such a ____ term.

Mr. Morrison: Yeah, I –

Ms. Harris: When I brought it up here and I just pulled that up and I said agritourism links. I didn't know that.

Mr. Morrison: Yeah. I feel it's important that it's on a farm and is run by a farm. The farm is there first in order for it to be agritourism. In definition 2 I don't know if you can claim that.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, and that's why I like to get to some of these, like, bullets _____. _____ to clarify.

Mr. Morrison: So it gets down to words is the issue, but –

Mr. Ottesen: I think my interpretation is that, two, it's an *activity*, rather than a *business*. You know, _____. If we're thinking of it as an ag-dependent that is somewhat connected to the agriculture, then that's – that could happen on ag. It could even be a separate business and should – maybe *should* be.

Ms. Anderson: Yeah, I think the majority of these activities do generate income, if you think about it, or supplemental income to the farm. That's the reality that I see.

Mr. Ottesen: No, that's fine, that's true. But it doesn't – I think saying it's a business confines it to a separate category of business that a farm that may be engaged in agritourism activities, right? It implies that a delineation that I'm not sure is there ____.

Ms. Matheson: Well, I think Meg has put it together. Instead of _____ future business. _____. I'm lucky to have that.

Mr. Ottesen: Yep. Yeah, we work towards definition 1 then, and 2.

Ms. Frye: The edited version of definition 1, or go back to the –

Mr. Ottesen: _____. _____ that may generate – yeah.

Ms. Harris: I can _____.

Mr. Ottesen: That's fine.

Ms. Frye: So that's back to the first original definition.

Ms. Harris: Okay. Sorry, I have to step out. Would you like to – so I think two things can happen: One, you can take a vote inside – you've tried to merge the – if there's – I think there's, like, a majority opinion – a majority definition, a minority definition, or just a desire to merge them. And then in addition is this idea of developing a list of principles. So I think you could do both, it's just what you feel like.

(silence)

Ms. Harris: Let's just do like a – yeah, go ahead.

Ms. Roozen: ___ the definition 1, if we were to add after “agricultural education, enjoyment, or recreation that may generate income for the farm.” That pulled that piece up from definition 2 into 1. Does that then encompass – are we all – could we all be aligned on definition 1? Or is there something in definition –

Female: I see another way we could kind of mesh the two together. I’m going to take out –

Ms. Harris: Maybe we should try ____.

Ms. Anderson: Sure.

(several inaudible comments)

Ms. Anderson: I think instead of saying where it says “On an actively managed, ongoing farm operation and then engage the public more,” you could say “that link of agriculture with tourism for the purposes of agricultural education...” So instead of saying “engage the public” you could say “that link the farm operation that link agriculture with tourism for the purposes of agricultural education ____.” I just think the language of the agriculture and tourism is – that isn’t the word; ____ is.

Ms. Frye: I agree. If I’m just not seeing how it’s lacking in the first definition, even though we don’t use the specific words. Being clear that it has to be done by a farmer on an actively managed farm operation. And then, you know, as Tara said, we’re not going to get into specific activities because – I mean, even in the AAB’s letter ____, you know, they said ____ most agricultural activities are appropriate and allowed when they’re connected to a farm practicing soil-dependent agriculture. So I think it’s really that – like the important piece for me – and this is getting into the principles – is, like, that it’s connected to a bona fide farm operation. And then we have to think about what that means.

Mr. Steinman: Yeah, I hear you. Yeah, I agree. It’s crucial, from my perspective, to have an ag _____ operation to that definition.

Ms. Frye: And the specific reason I use the wording “farm operations” because the County has existing – an existing definition for that that defines it as a link to soil-dependent agriculture.

Ms. Anderson: Yeah, I wasn’t saying you take that part out after “farm operation.” I was saying instead of trying to engage the public more I was saying we could then sub in “that links agriculture, tourism” and then jump back to “for the purposes of agricultural education.”

Male: (incomprehensible)

Ms. Frye: Yeah.

Ms. Anderson: ____ is more important to me than “engage.”

Mr. Ottesen: I guess my only concern with that shift is it feels like it opens up a broader and undefined ____ to define tourism, as opposed to the specific education and recreation activities connected to that agricultural production. My only worry is the kind of referring – having a link to tourism on its own is – it’s more broad than –

Ms. Frye: Yeah, I guess I would like to take the word “tourism” out of the definition of agritourism. I think.

Ms. Anderson: It’s in the word already.

(several people speaking at once)

Ms. Frye: I know. But beyond that, I’m basically sharing Kai’s concern.

Mr. Morrison: Sounds like we’re getting hung up on words. That proves that they mean something. I think we’re just going to have to take a vote.

Ms. Roozen: Or was there a proposal to do the majority and then the minority something? Did I hear that?

Ms. Frye: Yes. Yeah, I think basically if someone wants to _____ on a definition and not – I mean, either way: however people want to put a –

Ms. Keltz: Did we not just add the definition 2 to start at “to attract visitors” and add that right after the last paragraph, “Agricultural support services to attract visitors to farms for the purposes of education, recreation, and entertainment. All generate an income.”

(several people speaking at once)

Mr. Ottesen: Yeah, is that not only covered under engage the public?

Ms. Frye: Right, because I’m just not sure what it adds outside of, like, sure you could put in the note about may generate income, but I also just think that’s inherently understood.

Ms. Anderson: I don’t think it’s – I think that’s an important part. Most agricultural activities are not ____.

Ms. Frye: Sure. Agreed.

Ms. Satushek: I’m sorry. I’m catching up. So for recreation, do you suggest “that may generate income for the farm”?

(sounds of agreement)

Ms. Roozen: I personally feel like if we're adding in "may generate income for the farm" after recreation in the definition 1, that that encompasses essentially what definition 2 is. But, Jessie, do you disagree on that? Because the leading agriculture – the tourism – to me it feels like that's essentially what's being defined within range of activities conducted by a farmer actively _____ education, enjoyment, and recreation.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, I agree. I mean, I'm fine.

Ms. Anderson: I think it's wrong – is that – yeah, _____ for the farm. That kind of space.

Mr. Ottesen: _With the time remaining, I don't see us getting to a list of the guiding principles around this. So with that in mind, I move that we accept definition 1.

Mr. Morrison: I second that.

Ms. Frye: I guess I would like to make sure we can discuss a little bit about principles, basically because I think where we got – basically where we got hung up last week – well, then how do you define a farm operation. It's, like, how – there's a bunch of different ways to do that, and I think that's going in some ways be the more important part. That, again, _____ but those other ____ that are going to be more important.

Mr. Ottesen: Do you want to just cite the County's definition in our definition here? You were saying the farm operation is _____.

Ms. Frye: Sure – well, and incidental. I mean, I think that is a clear – like defining incidental is a pretty key part of it. What does that mean? I mean, I think I'd be happy to vote on that definition as edited, but if we don't discuss this whole incidental thing, we're kind of missing the biggest piece of the picture.

Mr. Ottesen: Right.

Ms. Satushek: Should I bring up the _____?

Ms. Frye: We can vote on the definition first.

Ms. Keltz: If we do that and we have conversation on "incidental," would that change any part of the definition?

Ms. Frye: It wouldn't change part of the definition in my mind, but –

Ms. Keltz: I guess I'm a little concerned with the incidental part, because somebody could be farming 95% of the farm but the agritourism – just the nature of farming – could make

more money on the agritourism stuff versus farming. It's a bad year but they're still farming the same plot of land.

Ms. Anderson: And zero paper again.

Ms. Keltz: Yeah.

Ms. Anderson: Mm-hmm.

Mr. Morrison: The other side of that, of course, is the risk is that it becomes easier to do the non-farm and just concentrate on whatever the other thing is that earns all that money and just make _____ quick-growing, high-cost crops and they'd like to grow grass or something. You know what I mean. And it would be very easy to do.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, I think that just saying no conversion of ag land is not a high enough bar. Like, there are too many other actual farmers. Think of all the folks at Viva who are having a really hard time finding land. And if you keep it as like just no conversion of lands –

Ms. Anderson: Yeah, but we're saying "actively farming" with _____.

Ms. Frye: Yes, but again I'm basically in support of Oregon's model of, like, your income can't exceed – I mean, it's a three-year average.

Ms. Anderson: I'm not –

Ms. Frye: I know. I know. I think we're going to agree to disagree.

Ms. Anderson: That was like, you know, the strictest – maybe the strictest set of rules in the state of Oregon, so I don't think that's the one we need.

Ms. Frye: But I think just a Schedule F is not a high enough bar for no conversion of ag lands. It still opens the door to hobby farms, token farms –

Mr. Morrison: Yeah.

Ms. Frye: I mean, zoning is zoning for a reason. Like, right use, right place. So, like, there are – there're Rural Commercial, there's other zones for activities like that to happen and I think – I mean, the only reason I've moved more towards this is, like, again, even if a state process – like Jenn communicated in her presentation about – like businesses that are specifically intended to serve as venues for non-agricultural uses is not agritourism. That's reflected in the Commerce document as well, you know, where, again, it reads: "Agritourism should only be an accessory use to a main agricultural use. It is intended to support rather than become the main source of business. This means that someone should not purchase land with the intention of solely hosting weddings. Rather, an orchard should only house weddings on occasion and should be able to show that the facility is supporting the orchard first and foremost." I mean, I think that – like, I agree with that. I'm

not saying like, again, I'm not saying an activity – a wedding – is inherently not agritourism, but it's like what role does it play? Is it the primary or the secondary use? And I think it's great. I mean, I feel fine with that definition, but it's all the rest of it that is the teeth that really matters, in my opinion.

Mr. Ottesen: Yeah, I know what the proper procedure is _____ Robert's Rules here again. _____.

Ms. Frye: What was your –

Mr. Ottesen: We've got to deal with the vote.

Ms. Frye: I mean, again, I think we could have voted about that definition but it's like –

Mr. Ottesen: It sounds like this may – like this may direct the language here _____. And I agree – I agree that those things do need to be – yeah – defined in some way but –

Ms. Frye: And not that we're going to ____ here, but –

Mr. Ottesen: Or we're just calling out the fact that they – that those terms in that language needs to be addressed.

Ms. Anderson: I mean, Kristen, I remember we brought forth in here for one of the tulip farms that is smaller – and yeah, they're not making as much money on the actual tulips as they are on their agritourism activities. And that's just the reality that some smaller farms, their tourism income is higher.

Ms. Frye: Well, I think the Tulip Festival – I mean, because they're all getting a free pass anyway. Again, I think we're saying, like, What sort of operations are we wanting to see in the future? It's like – _____.

Ms. Anderson: Well, I want to see small. I want to see small ____ survive. As someone who's from – I've never heard of any farm wanting to live on their farm income or any other income they could get. They need it all.

Ms. Frye: So, I agree. I mean, we're all in the same boat. I feel like you have three small farms, I would consider Kai and myself and Matt all small farms, you know.

Ms. Anderson: Yeah. It sounds crazy to me to set a ceiling on what your farm income (is) and you can scrap together, you know, agritourism becomes a supplement.

Ms. Frye: But again, *supplement*. There is the key word.

Ms. Anderson: Supplement. But –

Ms. Frye: How do you not hollow out the core of the agricultural use? That's what we're trying to get at. Like, if there aren't some constraints –

Ms. Anderson: I don't need a constraint. How much ____ versus here? I think you have to have the benchmarks for who is allowed to do these things and what activities are allowed to take place, but I don't think it's for us to decide how much we can supplement.

Ms. Frye: I think that's one of the ways – again, that Oregon – and I don't think that they're the only place – has, like – at some point you have to define what “incidental” means. The flea market is not a good enough tool to conserve agricultural lands.

Mr. Ottesen: I think counties around us do demonstrate that. Yeah, if it's not – you know, we had a – we've got these choices – right? If it's activities, if it's an income threshold, if it's footprint, numbers of events. If it's none of those, then we ought to just – trouble solved – and go home. But I don't think it is and it needs to be – needs to be some criteria, some limiting, some limiting factor or it's not going to be ag. It's going to – you know. It's not going to be a land base to add to that and opportunities for farms to farm.

Ms. Anderson: ____ farmers farming and they're converting zero farmland, I don't think it's for us to dictate how much money they can make with the farm and their agritourism. I think that's an overreach. Have you heard of other counties that are doing this _____?

Ms. Satushek: The only one I can – I just refer to the agritourism ____, that, you know, Marion County, I think, is the one.

Ms. Anderson: We keep coming back to this one county in Oregon and I just don't think _____.

Mr. Morrison: But Chelan County has something in place. I don't know if it has to do with dollars but it has to do with the review and make sure that the farm or the winery – I guess the vineyard or the orchard – are still the biggest part of the business versus the – whatever tourism activity that might be there.

Mr. Steinman: On the west side, are there any counties outside of Skagit that actually have an agricultural sector that's growing or is maintaining? There's not. _____. Whatcom County kind of has one but it's ____ because they don't have _____.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, make them – yeah, it's in a unique situation. It's the last functioning, fully agricultural valley economy on the west side. We're close enough to Seattle to have some unique pressures and therefore – and we have some of the best soils in the world. It would be prudent to take a bit more of a conservative approach, which the GMA does say. Counties with agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance can be more conservative than what the state is saying. And so I just think it's prudent.

Ms. Anderson: I think it's okay to have constraints with the, you know, how you listed agritourism activities we have – number 1, number 2, number 3, and it's okay to put constraints there. I just think it's wrong to put a ceiling on a farm for how much income it can make.

Ms. Frye: Then I think the temporary event limit should be very low. I mean that's going to – if you aren't going to put an unlimited limit, there's got to be other limits that are going to help keep it incidental. And that's what – in Boulder County, you're only allowed six events outright and then you have to get permits. So I think there's different ways of going about it, but if there's not a way – because, again, I think that even when you say no conversion of ag lands, it's just not a high enough bar. It's easy for someone to have a token or hobby farm for the core of agritourism to go away. And it has something that someone else could be farming and actually contributing to the food supply.

Ms. Anderson: Yeah, I think if someone's actively farming it should be that they should be allowed to earn their ___ money to ___.

Ms. Frye: So it's okay for someone to make \$5,000 farming and \$100,000 on tourism?

Ms. Anderson: Well, I mean if they only have, like – I mean it depends on the size of the farm. So yeah, it might be a very small farm.

Ms. Harris: I hear one more voice that I haven't heard before.

Ms. Matheson: Oh, I was just – I have been thinking about this. Could we pull anything from, like, real estate files or something, that, like, if your property is nonconforming in some way there's a special avenue to go to that would allow you to at least discuss your special circumstances if you're not able to make the limit that we set for, like, incidental or something like that. Because I know there are a lot of smaller properties out there that are non-conforming to, like, the **Act 40** or whatever _____. Yeah.

Ms. Frye: I think there could be a pathway for – through, like, a Hearing Examiner permit to say if your agritourism income is going to exceed your farm income there's a Hearing Examiner, and then you get commercial taxes. Like – again, if farming is not your primary income, you don't get to keep your farm tax rates. I mean, I've heard that consistently from farm groups that that's part of their concern. Again, that should be a pretty high bar.

Ms. Harris: I mean, I suggest that you have a good working definition – that I see a lot of agreement on. And I think these conversations, while very important and kind of may be the root of things – could be provided as additional context.

To Kai's point, I feel like if you're ready to move forward on approving this definition as, like, a base definition that incorporates that, we'll talk a little bit at the end of the meeting about what it looks like to write the rest of this up and submit it to the County. But my recommendation would be that you move forward on the vote if you feel like you're ready to do that. Accept this definition and then spend the next – I think we've said, like, the

County's hoping for any written content by July 10th to compile that and get it put into, like, a formal package by the 17th. So that would give you, like, 10 days or almost two weeks to write up some of those – like your rationales. _____ like, I agree to accept this definition and here's my rationale or here's my concern with it, and you can provide that as additional context. That would supplement that definition and Tara could use. So that's –

Ms. Frye: So maybe you're trying to – if someone were to write something up, are we trying to put it out to the group for, like, a majority/minority opinion, or more like at that point we're just providing personal context?

Ms. Harris: I would recommend the latter, just based on the time that you have, but if you'd like to – but I know that you've been kidding with each other about the __, so, like, it would be stronger. It could be strong to say, like, these three people kept together and developed this. These two people kept together and developed this. I think I would do that before you submit it, rather than have it, like, go back out for –

Mr. Ottesen: Sure _____.

Ms. Harris: It gets at your principles. Like, I think you could each draft a principles list – anyone who is encouraged to do that. Not all of you have to if you feel like it's captured already. And the County would take that into account as their _____. _____.

Female: (incomprehensible)

Ms. Harris: _____ you're voting on? Okay. With the white attached to it as well?

Mr. Steinman: (incomprehensible)

Ms. Harris: So this included –

Ms. Frye: I thought we – no, that's the combined. We were *not* going to put that sentence in there. "Agritourism links agriculture with tourism." All we were adding to definition 1, my understanding was, that it may generate income.

Ms. Roozen: I don't think we like to eliminate _____.

Ms. Harris: You all mentioned it to me with that _____.

Mr. Ottesen: You're looking at the red one.

Ms. Harris: Yes, yeah, _____.

Ms. Frye: And you're right: "engage" should be "engages." That was the range.

Mr. Ottesen: _____ the purpose of, strike __ from this.

Ms. Frye: Sure.

Female: I recommend those.

Mr. Ottesen: I second.

Ms. Harris: Okay. Any objections?

(silence)

Ms. Harris: Okay, hearing none, I – the group has moved forward on this definition. I would incorporate it into the final recommendations. Anyone who would like to is encouraged to work independently or together on outlining your rationale for either things that are inherently or ___ in this definition or things that you feel like are missing that are critical for the County to consider _____ before adopting language. Okay, I'd like everyone to get up and just do a little stretch.

Ms. Frye: Wait. Are we voting?

(several people speaking at the same time)

Ms. Frye: Or are we – okay, okay. We're, like, worried that –

Ms. Harris: ___, stand up, up tall. Okay, _____. Okay, so we have topic number 4 and then I want to spend a few minutes at the end just talking about what it looks like between this meeting and the County's approach to putting this in the code.

Tara gave us a pretty good overview at the beginning of the meeting about this recommendation 4. It's written in front of you. The big pieces of it that I heard were Tara stating that, like, the temporary events is not sufficiently detailed in the code and the explanation for that. The recommendation to remove – temporary events will still exist in the code but won't be applied to agritourism; rather, this proposed ___ 1, 2, and 3 will. That aligns with the definition that you've just looked at. And the language following that is the threshold for each category will be defined by the County. It will be clear, ___, and enforceable. Those are things that you have set forward as important to you, and it references the intent of the Ag-NRL lands, with additional context that follows – and to further explain why temporary events is not the appropriate use for this. What it doesn't do is flush out the thresholds specifically for these categories. You have done that. You have set boundaries around some of that over the course of meetings, so the County has those records in terms of, like, where you've been – examples that the County could use in terms of square footage, number of people served, number of days within a calendar year. Darrin responded via email and made one recommendation, which was an inclusion in the last sentence of Impacts to Agriculture and Farming Operations. Tara, if you scroll down we can – _____. But I do think that could be included, just as a point in that list. Tara, I asked you if that was, like, something that was practical that they hadn't been doing and you said yes.

Ms. Satushek: I don't have the latest one but I do – I have the one with Darrin's comments in it, but I could add that into this document.

Ms. Harris: I think after – in the last sentence, either before or after the anticipated ratio. It's the very last sentence. I had – let's see. Yeah, right there before "operating ____" ____ you could put "these ____ agriculture and/or farming operations."

Mr. Morrison: Yeah, and I even just have some questions about when they analyze their studying, it probably includes some of the stuff I'm concerned about, and that would be runoff and drainage from parking lots and things like that – you know, even parking or blocking entrances to fields. We see some of this during the birding season, even though that's not a really busy farming season. We got a lot of people out just parking off the road, and they want to get off the road because they get cited when they're parking along the road. So they end up in a field entrance and there could still be harvesting or planting even. I mean, those kind of activities. Like, I don't know what the County or, you know, what your criteria is when you do a study. Does that fall under all of that, all those impacts?

Ms. Satushek: Yeah. So when somebody comes for a proposal for me it's a full review, so stormwater's definitely a huge one, access is a huge one. So Public Works actually has an access technician person who does that – he analyzes the width of the driveway, the radius – or, like, the radial turns, the amount of traffic. So a lot of that stuff is analyzed during that review process for NPD, just like when we get special permits and for, like, other things. Those are definitely considerations that are looked at. But stormwater is huge – definitely thoroughly reviewed, especially also in addition because it *is* ag and the delta, and assuming the project would be in a delta area, even more eyes on it because of the drainage concerns to the ag lands there.

Mr. Morrison: Mm-hmm. Yeah. And that's not to mention, like, the conflict – the possible conflict, that I don't know how you would study it because there's no real precedence set at all. But, you know, if you were to find manure or agricultural pesticides while there's an ongoing tourist activity going on. Something like that, or animals that are pastured that are being harassed just because of noise and traffic. I don't know how you analyze that stuff.

Ms. Satushek: That one, I think, might be hard. I fully anticipated like, so when we – so part of the _____ asked, like, if there is no type of lighting, will there be increase in lighting, increase of sound, increase of noise. That's part of the environmental review, and that is an estimation based off of any type of projections – usually modeling. Like, Oh, we've assumed that a lot of these are out there that – like cars generate x-amounts of decibels and _____. So that's how that is generally measured. It's more of a theoretical process, modeling process, to see if it'll have a big impact. I think – and maybe this is above my scope here – but I was thinking too about – and I don't know if they have – if this happens, but, like, with – I was thinking about my previous work – a previous jurisdiction where I worked. There was, like – we'd have signs like "You're a visitor here. You're a guest. This is a working – you're entering work and farm land, so if you'd please

be aware. And ____, the county will not be an opportunity for nonprofits to engage with other agencies to, like – we want to support agritourism, but at the same time recognize these are working lands and folks are visitors to these working lands. So again, it's outside of what we're talking about but just something I was thinking about when you were mentioning folks. Because I personally don't like – yeah, anyways. But yeah, I see ____.

Ms. Keltz: I think some of that stuff that you're talking about isn't necessarily – no one's going to get a permit for it. People are just coming up. So I think like things that we're doing – Be Bird Wise or education –

Mr. Morrison: Yeah.

Ms. Keltz: If you are going to come, here are kind of the rules that are set forth to do that. Stay off private land. Don't block the – you know, all of the things could be messages that go out. But I don't know. Then it can be – because no one's getting a permit to do an event. The birds are here. People are coming. We just have to educate people ____.

Mr. Morrison: But if I was seeking a permit and I'm going through all this review, I think agriculture needs to be considered, right? That's what I'm trying to say. I didn't see it called out. It's traffic impacts and stuff like that, but ongoing – the farms that are in the neighbors', right? – during a harvest or – you know, these roads aren't very big in a lot of cases. They weren't intended for all this traffic we're bringing in.

Ms. Satushek: I do also want to note whenever we do get a special use permit in we – folks within – I thought it might be a little bit different, but within a certain amount of radius, you know, if gets posted for public comment and that would be helpful too, if people got that and they'd go, Oh, this is actually during operating season, to have that conversation. And that might be the next thing that I need – yeah – something to look – sorry, I'm thinking and I'm talking.

Mr. Morrison: Mm-hmm.

Ms. Frye: I mean, I know that this is the topic we've spent the least time on. I think what you have here captures it and I think that there's obviously still a lot of detail to flush out with 1, 2, and 3. Like, all plans _____ context,, like from all their research. I've done – like, I think as a general framework this is getting at what needs to be addressed.

Ms. Harris: Is there anything in here that looks like we really could live with at this point?

(silence)

Ms. Harris: There're a couple of headshake nos. You can confirm it as ____! And a recognition that, like, maybe there's, like, a statement in here that the advisory group –

like this is the place that you'd expect more detail from the County when they respond back to you later in the summer.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, maybe – if I were to add anything – and again, I can add all this in further context. And this kind of gets back to what was partly written in the Tulip Festival opinion – was the idea of farm-building occupancy. Because that is kind of tied to the temporary events. Like I think ____ should have the flexibility to use their farm buildings for agritourism activities or events on a limited nature without having to, like, bring them up to code for occupancy. I talked to Jack about this and he gave me an example of, like, a church being allowed to have people sleep overnight. Like, it's not an intended use but with certain safety plans and requirements that's possible. So that, like, you could use a barn or your CSA visit day without having to install the exist signs and – you know, things like that there. So I guess whether that gets put in here... But like some understanding that, like, with certain requirements and of a limited nature that farm buildings could be used for those related activities. And I have some more that I can _____.

And then my other comment would be just like on permitting process. And so essentially differentiating between getting a permit for truly temporary events, like an orchard as the Commerce example - an orchard that occasionally hosts weddings. Like you would be getting a permit like *per event* potentially versus ongoing operations that you say, Oh, I'm going to run six workshops on growing various crops this year. Like you should be able to apply for a permit for kind of those six. It's just trying to, like, figure out what's a reasonable balance between, like, if your higher impact events would be a per-event, or if you're proposing, like, more an ongoing operation that you don't get a permit but then it's reviewed on an annual or a semiannual basis. It'd be like, How you doing? Still doing the same thing. Is it the same local impacts? And again, _____.

Ms. Harris: Thoughts on those ones?

Ms. Anderson: Seems like depending on the size and scale might be potential workshops, they might just be helpful.

Ms. Frye: Yeah. Yeah, I agree. I guess my other question for the County is it does seem, from what I can tell, that the application form and process is currently the same for administrative use permits and Hearing Examiner permits. And it seems like because we're saying those seemingly have different levels of impact, you know, there maybe should be some sort of – I don't want to say "streamlined." Like the permitting complexity should be scaled to the level of impact. So other counties I've seen have two different processes. You know, like again, if I want to have a CSA visit day and I have five people over, the limit that pushes me into the administrative use, like, do I really need to submit a SEPA, a full SEPA packet? You know what I mean?

(several people talking at the same time)

Ms. Frye: _____ now partly because it's the same for both levels.

Ms. Satushek: You're referring to VC or special uses?

Ms. Frye: No – special use permit.

Ms. Satushek: Okay. Yeah, the SEPA requirement would be just – whether it's triggered is a state thing; it's something that we don't have control over. And then whether it's an administrative permit or a Hearing Examiner permit it depends on the scale. So if they want increased scale and intensity, the more studies we would need. And the code right now is kind of – it does provide the way for staff to know when to – because we just had a development regulations update in current permit procedures this year to make it clear to the public – part of it's to help the public so that they know what to expect. So if they're ___, Oh, I might have to just do a site plan or I'm going to have to do a full-fledged lights/traffic impact analysis. So based off of the scale, scope, the permit type, we do provide you with ___ amount of studies or requirements needed to help staff – right? Either make an administrative determination or make a Hearing Examiner recommendation for the Hearing Examiner to decide on.

Mr. Ottesen: Can I just clarify and make sure? So after we're doing the application you decide whether it goes in the administrative use or the Hearing Examiner?

Ms. Satushek: Usually the code will tell us, right? Because we usually do pre-developments and we're like, Based off of this, we're going to have to go through the Hearing Examiner halfway because it sees the special – for example, like for a seasonal roadside stand. Like, you're over this x-amount of square feet so you'll need to – for the Hearing Examiner. It'll be a robust review because of its larger scope and scale. But yeah, people know – you would know, based off of the criteria, _____ deal with the home-based business types, you know which type of permit you need to apply for. And once you meet with – you go in this very special use ___. So you go into, like, this _____ and the _____ you'll need. And then from there it's special use and will go into another section of the code which could give preliminary topics that we would need – staff would need to review, and anything in addition to their ___. So again, lights. Things are typically noted on a SEPA, so noise impacts, impacts to community, those sorts of things. I think even _____. Typically what's on the SEPA is what the - the reports staff will need to make a recommendation for the SEPA determination and also for the approval and recommendation to the Hearing Examiner.

(recording seems to skip a comment here)

Mr. Ottesen: So if you write that into the folders – that kind of thing – you're fine.

Ms. Frye: I don't. I mean, I think if something could be looked at and I will send in some examples of other counties.

Mr. Ottesen: Okay.

Ms. Frye: Again, the goal is to not make things more onerous for farms. Again, scales - perfect scales _____. What does it cost currently to get a temporary ____ permit or a special use permit, and how much is it? If you go the administrative or Hearing _____

Ms. Satushek: I'd have to pull the schedule up because we update – the update is on the Sierra _____.

Ms. Frye: I'd be curious to know. _____ Bunch of those or counties as well, and _____.

Ms. Satushek: Yeah. So if you go to the Planning Department webpage, _____, yeah, they'll have it there.

Ms. Harris: So these additions – and I would encourage folks to write up more, if you'd like – are in this additional context section of this, which you haven't specifically been voting on. This is more of a – again – rationale, if you will, for where what falls under the actual regulation section if you feel like, as a group, you're ready to approve this recommendation for number 4.

Ms. Frye: I think the only change I would make, like, just to the specific wording, is if you scroll down, all agritourism activities – right there – must be directly related and incidental to agricultural production. Because we did just sync with that in our definition. I mean, I think that clearly this recommendation is saying get rid of temporary events and the County will figure out three levels to come back to us with plenty of comment.

Ms. Harris: _____ ready for another vote ____? Are there objections from this group to the language as it's currently written in this recommendation?

(silence)

Ms. Harris: Everyone's eyes are glazed. I'm hearing that. bit I loved just like a _____.

Okay, I think you have done it in that you have the formal recommendations on all _____. We have 20 minutes. I did tell you we would revisit 6A just briefly and make a decision on how to proceed on that one, and then we'll talk about what comes next. So you've had some time to think about (incomprehensible/inaudible).

(several people speaking inaudibly)

Ms. Keltz: The VCAs that are being done by the current businesses – are those going to go once those are done into perpetuity? Or will they at any point have to abide by whatever code comes out of this?

Ms. Satushek: My understanding is that the VCA kind of put a line in the sand, so if anyone previous and they have two pathways forward I mentioned I haven't been privy

to all of that but there's one that allows – that would help the applicant allow their current use, and then once the owner's done with it it would stop. There's a second path forward that's the full or best review that would – or process, I should say – that would be the ____ to all the permits required and that's possibly transmittable to a new owner. But this – I would imagine that the scope typically – the scope, if that business was changed in any type, a new code would apply. But if they're operating under this previous vested code, which is the VCA process, it would generally stay there.

Ms. Keltz: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Harris: Okay, you have this document that you can choose to use or not. This includes a lot of what Rob's support has, like the rationale for long-term representation. It takes out any reference to either an existing or if you move forward. So there's a ____ recommendation at the top and then what I have left in – if you scroll down a little bit are these four topics of, like, why representation is important – why representation's an important ____ in this _____. This probably goes into more detail than you really need in terms of providing something to the County. A decision to make right now is do you take something like this and provide it as an actual recommendation or do you take just snippets of this – one or two sentences – and put it into your cover letter. And does that hold the weight that you're looking for in terms of ensuring that the County is – understands where you're coming from and there's some level of, like, follow-through that you would expect to see.

Ms. Frye: I would be in support of the latter. I don't know that submitting this whole document with the recommendation – I still struggle with some of the wording, like what is permanent –

Mr. Morrison: Yeah.

Ms. Frye: – or ongoing. Again it implies that there's not a platform for that or I – I can't support the wording as it is and I don't really have enough time to think through other wording, so I think some bullets and pulling a few sentences and putting it in the cover letter is what I personally would be in support of.

Ms. Harris: I'd like to see a show of hands who feels that. Those of you who _____ can you share a little bit about, like, what you'd like to see moving forward?

Ms. Keltz: I think we could make the wording just be more of that simple – you know, that we think that it needs a dedicated voice within the decision-making. Not taking out that permanent advisory board piece. I don't – I would be fine with that. But I think having a separate document for that versus just – just so it doesn't get lost in the future.

Ms. Harris: Do you other members feel the same way?

Ms. Roozen: Yeah, I guess my concern is just that – I mean, _____ if we were to put this forward in our cover letter, it is still being conveyed that this feels like a very

important meaning. I just don't want it to get lost. I think it's very important that we continue this constructive dialogue and we have representation from ___ forums and views and tourism and operator – you know. So, I guess my only concern of not being part of the formal recommendation is that it might get lost. And then all of the work that we've done thus far doesn't have what we wanted.

But I also think that we've all given a lot of time and so I'm not – you know, I understand your point of view too, Amy, and, like, we _____. I don't think any of us necessarily want to go back to the drawing board and, you know, come up with the exact wording. It is a lot of work. We've already put in so much work. So I don't know what that common ground is. I can _____ in it hopefully that we want to continue this really constructive forum, but there needs to be one of those ongoing. What that looks like, I don't know.

Ms. Frye: And I guess in some ways I am wondering, like, What – not – like, What will there be to be discussed? Because I think the hope is – like, the County's hoping, like, actually finally finish this process and change code language, that it's been ongoing and, like, if we've all done our job and the County does its job and there's going to be – it's going to go to the Planning Commission; there's going to be more public hearing and everyone will help provide additional comment. Like, hopefully we won't need _____ much in the future. I mean, not that it – like, issues are always going to come up but it doesn't seem like it needs special attention more so that so many other issues the County's dealing with that get put up through various public hearings and Ag Advisory Board and whatnot. Like, _____. Is that an important conversation? _____ That time-consuming feature.

Mr. Ottesen: I think one concern I have is in holding on to the notion I don't want, even in an addendum _____ and it's the position of this board that we recommend it for an advisory board, whereas I would be, you know, in support or open to – you know, if the County and, say, the AAB and Skagit Valley Tourism wanted to join a task force _____. If that makes sense to those two bodies in the County down the line, great. You know, that makes perfect sense to me. I just thought I don't want to – yeah, I don't want kind of a shadow recommendation accompanying the rest of the ____.

Ms. Frye: And I – I mean, as you've noted, like, folks can provide additional written content that, like, have individual names attached. Like, I think – this may be – my proposal for the group work is to, like, include some language in the cover letter.

Ms. Anderson: Just take out that portion, you know, about the permanent work. We could put in a general recommendation along with the County to interpret that and _____.

Ms. Harris: I think what I'm hearing _____ is as it's written right now, there are objections to it. So there is some work that needs to be done _____ this forward, but that is _____ then I would suggest that you workshop this a little bit and bring it back to the group over email. And in absence of that, I am hearing a lot of agreement included. _____ in the cover letter if we take _____, like, they are not usually conclusive.

I think it could be included in the cover letter with the other recommendation on arbitration. And then if in the next 10 days you come to an agreement on, like, a very short one-pager that you feel like captures the spirit of it without any implicit suggestions of a new board, and that it feels like they can move forward and do it _____, then you could include that. If there are enough people _____ and one that objects to that then I don't think it gets approval in the final package, but it's recognized in the cover letter either way.

Ms. Roozen: Do you feel strongly we need to go back to the board and revise this for a vote, or do you feel comfortable making _____?

Ms. Keltz: _____. I don't know. I'm happy to wordsmith _____ that doesn't include the, you know, suggestion of _____.

Female: Well, I'm happy to talk.

Ms. Keltz: Yes.

Ms. Harris: _____ if I could send that to the group.

Ms. Frye: Okay.

Ms. Harris: Can we take a vote on the fact that you'd like some recognition of this in the cover letter? Thumbs up. Any objection?

Ms. Frye: Are we all going to vote on a final cover letter wording before – I guess maybe that's what we have to talk about.

Ms. Harris: Yeah, so that's great. Okay. Is this a good time to change this or any other last minute thoughts?

(silence)

Ms. Harris: Okay, so there's two pieces here as next steps. One is what this looks like as of format and written recommendations and deliverable to the County. And then – ooh, I'm sorry. And then I'll hand these over to Tara to describe where that goes from there in terms of code language. Okay, so what you have are a number of written recommendations, a bit of cleaning up – some, like track language changes. I will work with Tara on compiling that into, like, a single pdf or a Word document for your review, if you are planning on submitting written additions to that. So we'll work on getting that out to you with the meeting notes from this meeting, I would say by next Wednesday before the holiday. If you have – I would suggest that if you have comments to that and specifically any, like, written additions to that, please send them to Tara by the 10th of July. This will all be in your meeting notes and I'll put this in an email. That gives a week to get anything that needs to be reclarified back out to the group. It also gives Tara a week to read through it, identify if there're any, like, burning questions that she has that she wants to put back to the group so that she's getting some questions answered as she's thinking

about how that would be written into code language. And then a final package due to the County by July 17th.

So this is a timeline that isn't based on a specific deadline like at a specific meeting but it is just based on – it was like wanting to keep this moment done and not taking over your whole summer. So I will send out a draft cover letter when I send out all of these recommendations for your review. You can make comments directly in it or you can send comments to Tara. If you do that, cc myself as well so that we can talk _____.

Questions about that?

Ms. Frye: Yep. I know you said it's not – there's no, you know, hard deadline, but I do feel like I saw somewhere and I'm just trying to find it just now, that agritourism is on in its upcoming agenda somewhere for the Planning Commission or the Board, and I was just curious. I saw it somewhere and now I don't know where I saw it. So can you comment on that?

Ms. Satushek: Yeah. So there was a public hearing on Monday to extend the current agritourism moratorium, which is the extension that is currently happening. And then the Board will _____ on the 7th.

Ms. Frye: About the extension.

Ms. Satushek: Correct.

Ms. Frye: Okay.

Mr. Morrison: Hmm.

Ms. Frye: Which is essentially they're trying to let us finish this process.

Ms. Satushek: Right. Yeah, and the intent of the moratorium is because it's acknowledging that the current code is inadequate and it allows staff time in that Commerce, the Planning Commission, this group, and the AAB to develop code language, to have it put in place _____. That's why the Board time is there – just to give us some time to develop code language. And then look at that legislative process.

Ms. Keltz: Have you heard any negative feedback about extending it? Because that could be something that's _____ started out _____.

Ms. Satushek: No. This is the third time it's been extended, and usually folks are in support, understanding that the County is giving resources and time to it and that they prefer to wait generally so that there will be some good ____ for the code adopted,

I could also add to that: So hoping that we get the final package on the 17th. The Department's supposed to have something by late July/August or so – August, depending

on staffing as well – to have a draft code available and then definitely want to bring it back to the group and just present our findings. So we'll reach out to see if that'll work best, like, in person or a hybrid approach. And then once there is a proposed code language it will go through the legislative process, which I _____ it goes to the Planning Commission. You circulate it for public comments. So there will be a public hearing and a work session with the Planning Commission, and they'll provide their input in addition to – yeah, the primary __, and then if there's changes to that, it'll go through another public hearing or just go straight to the Board of County Commissioners for an additional public hearing. So there's a ways to go to get adopted: if there will be, or the Board chooses setting up a docket code.

Ms. Harris: So the folks in this group will have an opportunity to review it in August, asking questions, and also as individuals to review it during the public comment period. Questions about that?

(silence)

Ms. Harris: Do you want to talk about it without, like, _____?

Ms. Satushek: Yeah. I think I would like – although thank you for _____. Because I don't know when in August. Depends on – because I want to have something to present, or _____ to present so I'd *imagine* it will be in August but I'll definitely keep everybody abreast of what's going on. But I would encourage you all to reach out to me in the meantime to turn that into me – and Meg also – if you have any further things – individuals to add or – you know, the best way to get hold of me is by email.

Ms. Frye: Yeah, _____ are you – what's your, like, end date of your involvement in the process? Is it carried through that next August meeting or, like, yeah, what – I don't know about the County's contract _____.

Ms. Harris: That's a good question. We have kind of a tiered contract, one of which – like, a portion of which ends after the follow-up from this meeting. And then additional funds if the County decides to use it for support through this process. So that could include an additional meeting. The County staff can decide if that August or September meeting is something that's facilitated or if that's directly between County staff and this group.

Ms. Frye: It sounds like at least through submission of the final packet.

Ms. Harris: Yes. If you have any thoughts on that, you're welcome to send them to Tara or Jack. And Jack is out through Monday but then he's back as well so if there are questions as things come up. So I guess just know he's been a valuable source of information and help to help walk through this process.

Ms. Satushek: Yes. Actually speaking to that, Jack has asked me to – I've been attending the Ag Advisory Board meetings until this – until there's something before the Board, I would encourage you all – if you can – to attend or watch the video and transcript – read

the transcript. I think that's a great opportunity, and also just being engaged in the Planning Commission process.

July's Planning Commission was cancelled because there was no business – no new business. We just finished ____ of our Comp Plan earlier on Monday, so the Planning Commission is working double-time. So they're taking a little break, but again, I would encourage you all to sign up to the Department's listserv as well. We try to keep everybody – well, we *do* keep everybody abreast through our listserv. Things that go before the Planning Commission and things that are presented before the Board. That's another way to stay in the loop of things.

Ms. Harris: Well, I'll let this group close. I just want to reiterate the fact that I spent meeting with just a lot of ____ from this group. I facilitate a lot of groups and the pace of this group in terms of, like, the work that you did between meetings and coming back and working at things and meeting every other week for the better part of three months, I – yeah, it just – we'll pat each other on the back and grab your drink of preference. Just acknowledge that it's been a delight. Yeah.

Ms. Satushek: And I'd like to add to that, definitely. I really appreciate everybody's participation and the insight that you all shared. It's definitely helped me as a Skagit County staff person get a better understanding of the history of Skagit County. I really appreciate all the meaningful dialogue and respectful communication. I think this is a really great group to work with and I really respected serving you all. It was great, from my point of view. I was really concerned, honestly, heading into this because of what I heard about agritourism being, you know, the newest kid on the block at the Department, so I really appreciate it. And then all the homework and recognizing that a lot of folks here have also been engaged in this process for so long and that you're not totally burnt out and decide to show up. I really appreciate that. Thank you.

Ms. Harris: Thank you. You're in the homestretch.

Ms. Frye: I appreciate everyone. I know we don't always agree but I appreciate everyone's involvement and time.

Mr. Morrison: Yeah, I agree. Hairy but a lot of work.

Ms. Roozen: Can we just shift to the Happy Hour?

(laughter)

Mr. Morrison: Sounds great!

(several inaudible comments)

Ms. Harris: Okay, things went great.

(RECORDING ENDS)