



MINUTES – 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust

March 10, 2017

South Bay Grange Hall, Olympia, WA

5:30 – 6:15 Membership and supporter sign-in. Local agricultural agencies and non-profits networking session. In attendance: six farm and food organizations plus distribution of the 2017 Farm Map and 81 members and supporters of SSCFLT.

6:15 POTLUCK DINNER

7:00 – 8:00 BUSINESS MEETING. Welcome and Introductions. SSCFLT Vice-Chair, Loretta Seppanen

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the March 18, 2016 Annual Meeting. APPROVED.
2. **2016 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP.** John MacLean, Chair, highlighted accomplishments in 2016. Copies of the Annual Report were available on the website and a few additional distributed to membership.
3. **FINANCIAL REPORT** - Members were asked to review the annual financial report available as part of the annual report on the website. Total income for the year, \$133,003 plus restricted assets of \$803,628 at GRuB Urban Farm and Scatter Creek Farm and Conservancy and in a growing farmland acquisition fund; total expenses, \$116,453; reserves as of December 31, 2016, \$57,878.
4. **FARM LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE.** Mary Ann Swain, Director of Farmland Preservation, summarized progress on the plans for acquiring an agricultural conservation easement at Oyster Bay Farm using Conservation Futures funding awarded in 2015. She described plans for a new farm project that was submitted for Conservation Futures funding in February 2017.
5. **FARM UPDATES:** Katie Rains, Executive Director of Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB) provided an update on the use of the 1.18 acres of urban farmland acquired by the Land Trust for use by GRuB in June of 2015. Colin Barricklow described the growth of Kirsop Farm at Scatter Creek Farm & Conservancy where the farm now produces several thousand broilers annually. Kirsop Farm is using 20 acres of the farmland to grow grains for poultry production.
6. **APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS:** The organization expressed appreciation to outgoing board members Ann Vandeman and Jennifer Holderman for their past service.
7. **ELECTION OF 2017 BOARD:** A slate of nominations was presented to the membership and was approved. Colin Barricklow and Stephen Hallstrom were elected to new terms on the board.

Continuing members of the Board previously elected in 2015 or 2016 are: Lisa Breckenridge, Marcie Cleaver, Russ Fox, Al Josephy, John MacLean, Loretta Seppanen and Aaron Varadi.

8. **EVENTS, NEW DONATION OPPORTUNITY AND FARM MAP:** Celeste Wade described plans for the October 14, 2017 Farms Forever event and called for volunteers. She introduced a new opportunity for members to support SSCFLT by giving their change when making purchases with several of the vendors at the Olympia Farmers Market. She thanked Christine Phillipson for the layout design of the 2017 Direct Sales Farm Map available for that evening.

9. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Tierney Creech, WA Young Farmers Coalition: Described advocacy work for the proposed federal Young Farmers Success Act and organization's October 2017 gathering.
- Evan Mulvaney, Hidden River Farms: Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Enterprise for Equity Farm Incubator Program at the Scatter Creek Farm & Conservancy and described in new farm in the Montesano area.
- Johanna Willingham: Announced that the West Olympia Farmers Market was recruiting for vendors
- T.J. Johnson, Urban Futures Farm: Announced that he now serves on an NRCS advisory committee and is seeking input on funding priorities.
- Marguerite Abplanalp, TCD: Encouraged all to use the soil testing and analysis services of the Thurston Conservation District

10. **Membership input –small group discussions and report back:**

30 members participated in a feedback session via small group discussions about the work of SSCFLT. The results indicate that:

- Members like the current partnerships, events, and outreach efforts of SSCFLT.
- Most participants recommended that the organization continue the same strategies and to deepen the current work (a few responses recommended broadening programs)
- One participant urged a broadening of the organization's work was "education". Several ideas for how to increase education emerged:
 - More education for farmers
 - Outreach to local schools
 - Informing elected officials and the electorate on farming and farm-related issues
- Some participants would like the organization to hold bigger events and others suggested events that focus on farm based events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.