

Chapter 2.06 AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

2.06.010 Agricultural Advisory Board Created.

An agricultural advisory board (board) is hereby created as an advisory body to the county council, planning commission, hearing examiner and county executive with duties and responsibilities as set forth in SCC 2.06.040. The board shall forward its advice and recommendations directly to the intended advise, and copy said advice and recommendations directly to the county council, county executive, and the department of planning and development services.

2.06.020 Board Membership.

(1) The board shall consist of eleven members appointed by the council pursuant to chapter 2.03 SCC. Board members shall consist of:
Positions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5: One person engaged in each of the following industries: dairy, nursery, livestock, commodity crops, and agricultural direct marketing.
Position 6: One person representing the diking, drainage and flood control districts located in the Snohomish River basin.
Positions 7: One person representing the diking, drainage and flood control districts located in the Stillaguamish River basin.
Position 8: One person who resides in the county and is engaged in the equine industry.
Position 9: One person recommended by the Snohomish County Farm Bureau.
Position 10 & 11: One person each residing in the Stillaguamish and Snohomish River basins.

(2) Appointments of members shall be made by the county council from candidates nominated by the county executive, taking into consideration an intention to balance representation of the two major river basins. Nominations for such appointments shall be requested from the affected agricultural organizations and special purpose districts for the respective positions on the board.

(3) All members shall reside in Snohomish County and be engaged in commercial agricultural activities within the county. A representative of the director of planning and development services shall act as an advisor and nonvoting member of the board.

(4) In the event the county executive is unable to find a candidate meeting the qualifications of subsection (1) for a specific position, the executive may nominate a candidate whose appointment is otherwise consistent with the intent of this section. Any such nomination shall be accompanied by a written explanation.

2.06.030 Member Terms.

Terms shall be staggered on the following basis: even-numbered positions shall have an initial term of two years and regular terms of four years thereafter unless a member is appointed for a term of two years as provided in this section. All other positions shall have an initial term of four years and regular terms of four years thereafter unless a member is appointed for a term of two years as provided in this section. Notwithstanding SCC 2.03.050, the county executive may nominate and the council may appoint for an initial or regular term of two years so long as it would not result in the terms of more than nine positions terminating in the same calendar year. Terms shall be effective upon appointment by the council.. A member shall not serve more than three consecutive four-year terms, six consecutive two-year terms, or any combination of consecutive four-year and two-year terms totaling twelve years on the board. After a period of two years' absence from the board, a person may again be appointed to not

more than three consecutive four-year terms, six consecutive two-year terms, or any combination of consecutive four-year and two year terms totaling twelve years.

2.06.035 Officers

Officers of the board shall be a chair and vice-chair. Beginning in the month of January, 2006 and continuing annually thereafter during the month of January, the board shall conduct an election of officers. Newly elected officers assume office immediately upon election.

2.06.040 Duties and Responsibilities of the Board.

- (1) The board shall serve in an advisory role on the following matters:
 - (a) Snohomish County comprehensive plan, including, but not limited to, the general policy plan and urban growth area, rural and resource plan components, and agricultural issues;
 - (b) Regulations which implement the Snohomish County comprehensive plan, or in any way affect agricultural issues;
 - (c) Other matters of agricultural policy which from time to time may be referred by the council or executive, or as may be raised by the board.
- (2) Early participation in the legislative process by the board regarding matters within its purview is appropriate and expected.

2.06.050 Operating by-laws.

The board shall develop and may from time to time revise operating by-laws acceptable to the county council and county executive; PROVIDED, that such by-laws shall not be in conflict with state or county law. The by-laws shall at a minimum address matters such as required attendance at meetings, selection of a chair and vice-chair, scheduling of meetings, quorum requirements and decision making procedures. The board shall generally meet on a monthly basis, with the chair having the authority to cancel if no meeting is necessary.

2.06.060 Joint Meetings with Council.

At least once each year the council will meet jointly with the board to discuss agricultural policy issues and the function of the board.

2.06.140 Severability.

If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter or the application of the provisions to other persons or circumstances is not affected.