



## King County

# Metropolitan King County Council Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee

### STAFF REPORT

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	6	<b>Name:</b>	Mary Bourguignon
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	2015-0489	<b>Date:</b>	January 19, 2016

### SUBJECT

Proposed Motion 2015-0489 would confirm the appointment of Meredith Molli, who resides in Council District 2, to the King County Agriculture Commission, for the remainder of a three-year term to expire on February 28, 2018.

### BACKGROUND

The Agriculture Commission was created in 1994<sup>1</sup> to serve as a forum for farmers to provide input on land use decisions, policies and regulations affecting commercial agriculture. The Commission's mission is to "actively influence regional policy to preserve and enhance agricultural land; support and promote a viable agricultural community; and educate the public about the benefits of local agricultural products."

The Commission consists of 15 volunteer members, of which eight must be producers engaged in the business of producing an agricultural commodity for market in commercial quantities. Members serve three-year terms.

King County Code 2.40.040 outlines the duties of the Agriculture Commission, which is asked to advise the Council and Executive on agricultural policies and programs, including, but not limited to:

- Existing and proposed legislation and regulations affecting commercial agriculture;
- Land use issues that affect agriculture;
- Ways to maintain, enhance and promote agriculture and agricultural products in the region; and
- Livestock regulation implementation and monitoring.

Highlights of the Commission's activities over the least year included reviewing and providing recommendations on the integration of agricultural improvements into the Farm Fish Flood process; reviewing the sale of the Tall Chief property; and continuing its oversight of the Farm Link and Puget Sound Fresh programs.

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<sup>1</sup> Ordinance 11417

## **APPOINTEE INFORMATION**

Meredith Molli is a resident of District 2. She is the owner of Goose and Gander Farm and La Medusa Restaurant. In that capacity, she is a farmer, chef and restaurant owner, who notes, "I have made my entire life about food and the local economy."

Ms. Molli goes on to note that she has a "unique perspective into what it takes to run both a farm and local food business in King County, the obstacles small business owners face in marketing products locally and financing growth, and a special motivation to help improve the regional policies that affect all small businesses in King County."

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2015-0489 (attachments available upon request)
2. Agriculture Commission Profile
3. Transmittal Letter

*Pursuant to K.C.C.3.04.110, which allows for confidentiality, the required Financial Disclosure Statements have been distributed to Councilmembers only.*