## STAFF REPORT

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda Item:** | 14 | **Name:** | Mary Bourguignon |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2016-0225 | **Date:** | May 3, 2016 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motion 2016-0225 would confirm the appointment of Bruce Elliott, who resides in Council District 5, to the King County Agriculture Commission, for a three-year term to expire on February 28, 2019.

**BACKGROUND**

The Agriculture Commission was created in 1994[[1]](#footnote-1) 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.

**APPOINTEE INFORMATION**

Bruce Elliott is a resident of Kent. He is the owner of Elliott Farm & Livestock. He is a member of the King-Pierce Farm Bureau, as well as the Washington Cattlemen’s Association.

Mr. Elliott notes that he is a lifelong King County resident, who has always been involved in agriculture in one way or another. He would bring 50+ years of institutional knowledge to the commission. He notes that he is particularly interested in “being able to perhaps influence the direction of ag policy in the County.”

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2016-0225
2. 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.*

1. Ordinance 11417 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)