

WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

Washington State Food Policy Forum

JUNE 4, 2026



Agenda

- 1:00pm **Welcome & Get Settled** (10 min)
- 1:10pm **Public-Private Partnerships for Food Infrastructure** (40 min)
- 1:50pm **Making Sense of Legislative Session** (75 min)
- 3:15pm **Administrative & Vice Chair Nominations** (15 min)
- 3:30pm **Closing Reflections** (15 min)
- 3:45pm **Adjourn**

Purpose & Objectives

- Learn from Tenino Agriculture Innovation Park tenants and partners about the conditions, practices, and relationships that enable successful public-private partnerships and food system infrastructure development.
- Build shared understanding of the 2026 legislative session and how the Forum can best position its existing priorities given current opportunities and constraints.

Public-Private Partnerships for Food System Infrastructure

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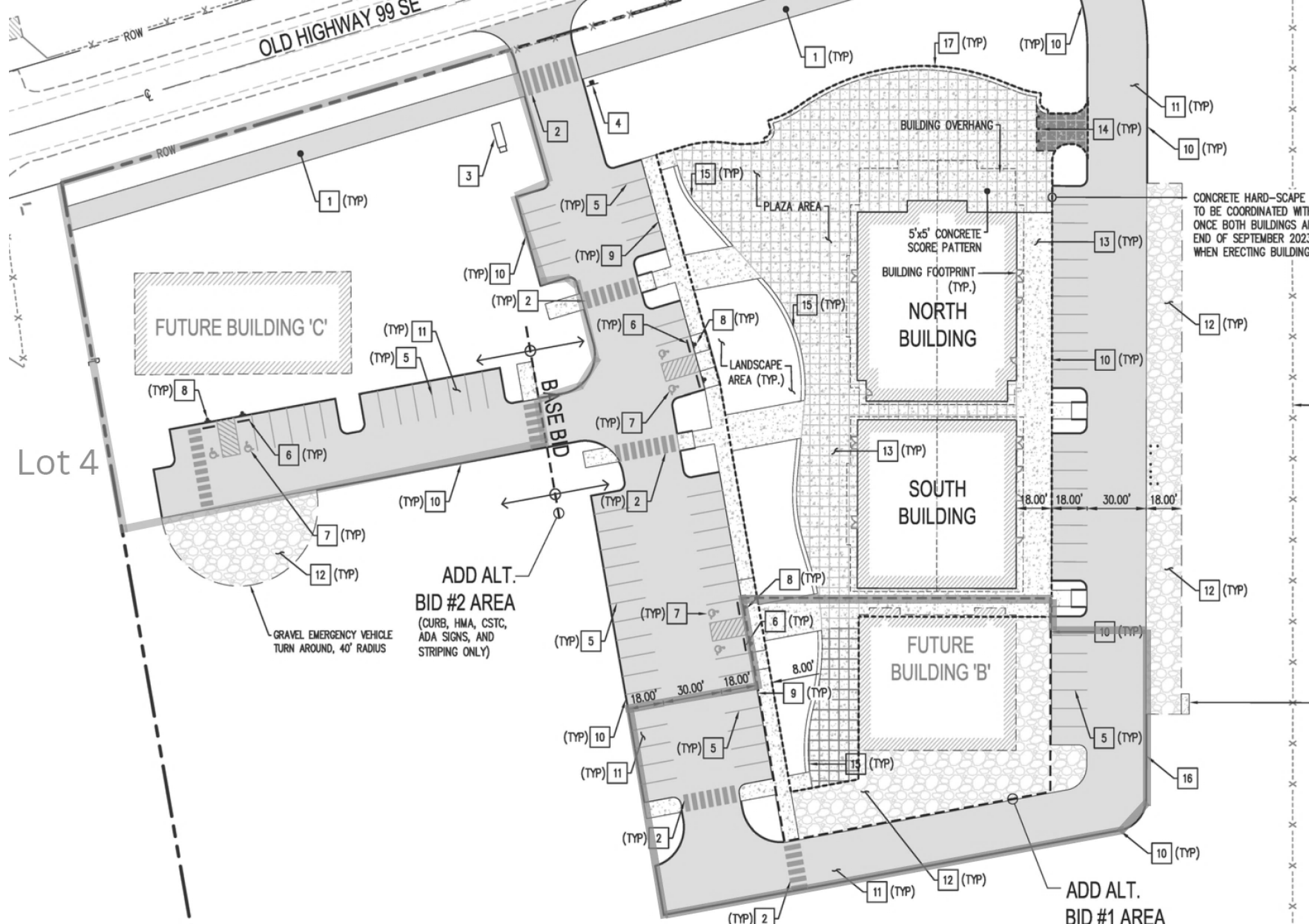
- Eric Klein, Colvin Provisions
- Representative Peter Abbarno, 20th Legislative District
- Wayne Fournier, Thurston County Commissioner

Moderator: Aslan Meade,
Thurston Economic Development
Council & Forum Member

Phase I Overview

LOT 2 – The
Park's First Two
Buildings

LOTS 3 & 4 –
Pads Building
Ready



North Building

The North Building is Publicly Funded and Owned by the City of Tenino



Stone City Event & Training Center

Simply Organic Café and Catering

South Building

The South Building is Privately Funded by the Dragonwheel Investment Group

It houses:

- HotBabe
HotSauce
- Colvin Ranch
Provisions
- EDC & STEDI
- DragonWheel &
Gondola Ventures





City of Tenino, WA

- Owner of Property
- Owner of North Building
- Funding Partner
- Retained Commercial Broker to Market Future Lots
- Will Negotiate Land Leases



Thurston EDC - Center for
Business & Innovation

- Overall Project Management
- Maintain Lot Leases for "Site Control"
- Fundraiser/Grant Writer
- Tenant Recruitment
- Business Technical Services
- Market Development for Park Tenants



Dragonwheel Investment Group

- Owner of South Building
- Commercial Lease on North Building
- Landlord, Managing Tenant Relations

Public/Private/Nonprofit Partnership



Two lots available for long term land lease in Tenino, WA

Lot 3: 0.363 AC / \$1,470 per month

Lot 4: 0.728 AC / \$2,981 per month

Utilities, water/sewer and 3-phase power on site

Paved parking, landscaping, and common lighting

Stormwater installed

Hwy 99 frontage

Join existing tenants:

- Event space, cafe, food production, and more!

Lots available

Amy Harding, JD
Executive Vice President
Shareholder



KIDDER MATHEWS

c 406.260.5530

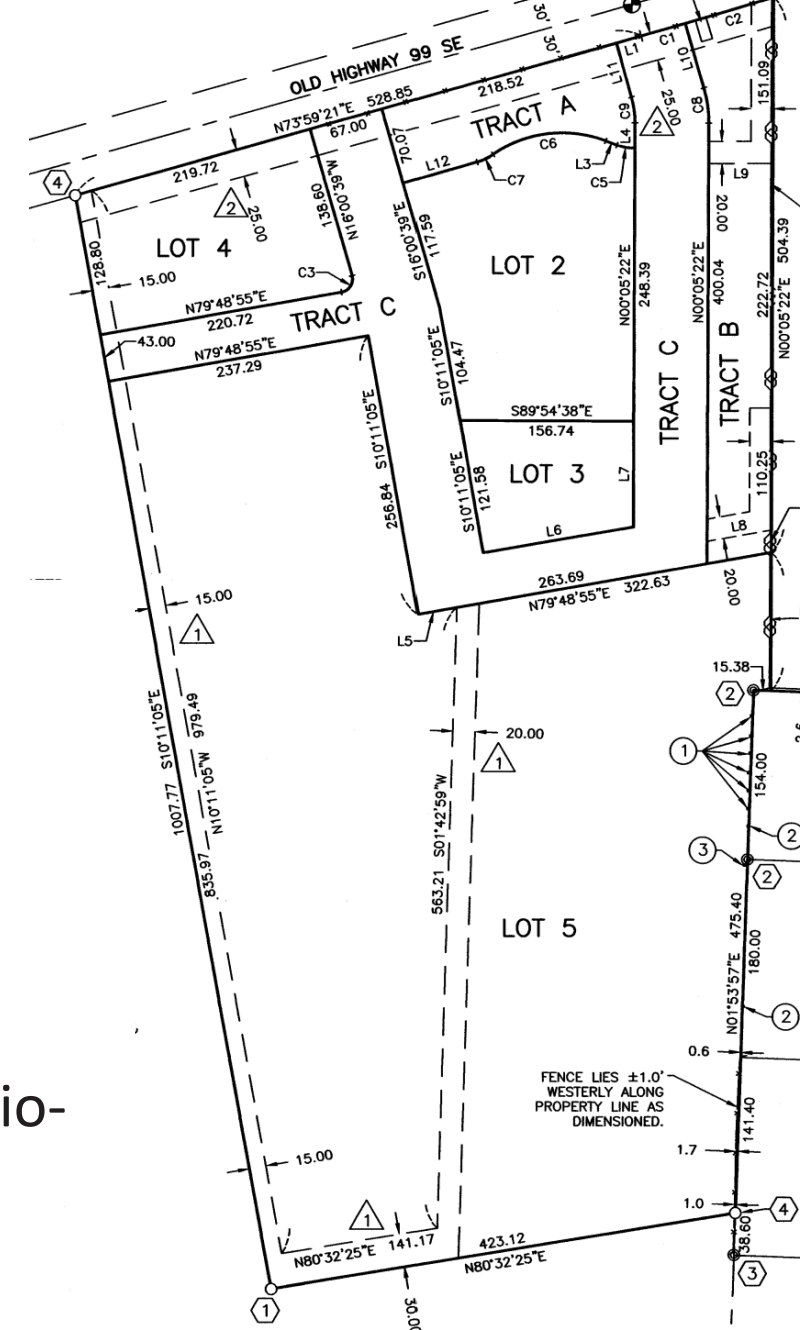
amy.harding@kidder.com | kidder.com



Phase II – 2026/2027

- Lot 5
- Colvin Ranch Meat Processing Facility (plus*)
- Private Sector Facility Investment \$10,000,000+
- To Employ 30 FTEs.
- Infrastructure Funds Raised - \$1.7M
 - Federal, State, TransAlta
- Lease with City of Tenino
- Initial grading and SEPA in Tenino permitting

*Additional Plans include Wastewater Pretreatment Facility, Bio-Digester/Composting? Cold Storage, Value-Added Processing, Commercial/Retail?



‘The limited number of slaughter and processing facilities in Pierce and Thurston counties was frequently named a top barrier for producers’



Thurston and Pierce County representatives gathered yesterday, July 31, to discuss updates about the Central and South Puget Sound Region Meat Production and Processing Infrastructure and Labor Study.

Workforce Development

- Career Connect WA Grant
- Apprenticeship Curriculum Development - Meat Processors Association, Central College, Local School Districts
- Colvin OJT – 30+ FTEs



Thank You!



Making Sense of Legislative Session

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Making Sense of Legislative Session

A Brief Snapshot Presentation (15 min.)

- Highlight key advances and setbacks from the session regarding Forum goals and recommendations, relevant contextual dynamics and where Forum ideas appeared.
 - Use HB2238 as a case example of:
 - How consensus ideas moved without direct Forum advocacy
 - What conditions appeared to support movement
 - What remains unclear about how or why uptake occurred

Clarifying Questions (10 min)

Make Sense Together (20 min.)

- What does the 2026 legislative session suggest about the role the Forum's consensus work plays, or can play in the policy ecosystem

How Session Kicked Off

Economic Context Set Early

- WSDA Director Sandison opened the session with an overview of the ag economy and the ag viability study
- Among the factors in play as SB 6045 (ag labor relations / collective bargaining) was not taken up by the full Senate

Forum Engagement in Committee Work Sessions

- The Forum was invited to share its recommendations during House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Work Sessions in December and January.

Bills that did not pass

- **HB 2297 (Commercial Grocery Access)** - There may have been a lack of understanding from the committee which resulted in not enough buy-in for the concept.
- **HB 2369 (Farm to School)** - The fiscal note stopped it from moving ahead
- **HB 2463 (WA Farmers Feeding Families)**
- **HB 2626 (State Farm Bill)** - The fiscal note stopped it from moving ahead. The bill bundles a wide range of small, targeted proposals addressing issues across food security, climate and energy costs, market access, workforce development, acreage transition, agricultural labor rules, and more. These measures include harvest-aid funding, institutional purchasing expansion, EPR fixes for perishable crop packaging, climate-related exemptions, refrigeration transition support, multiple studies on tax and market barriers, workforce training initiatives, removal of abandoned crops, overtime flexibility analysis, and even transferring cannabis regulation to WSDA.

Bills that passed

- **HB 2211 (Standards for Medically Tailored Meals)** - Ensures that standards for medically tailored meals are nutritionally, medically, and culturally appropriate and delivered by Washington-based nonprofit providers.
- **HB 2294 (Removing Barriers to Food and Medicine Access)** - This bill will help expand access to essential food and medicine across Washington.
- **SB 6346 (Millionaires Tax)** - Provides funding to expand the Working Families Tax Credit and will fully fund school breakfast and lunch for all Washington students.
- There will be a governor request for free school meals for all. There is opportunity to think about folding in farm to school work.
- **HB 2714 (Food assistance caseload)** - This bill directs the Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) to forecast the number of people expected to receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the state Food Assistance Program (FAP) because HR 1 shifts significant costs to states from the federal government and eliminated eligibility for people who now qualify for WA's state program.

Other Wins:

- **DSHS received about \$73 million for the biennium** to support increased staffing, cost share for SNAP, and quality control and systems management.
- **Summer EBT is approved through summer 2027**

Other bills mentioned by Forum members

- **House Bill 2481**, prohibiting surveillance-based pricing and surge pricing for retail goods.
- **House Bill 2388**, Concerning the siting of distributed energy generation resources on agricultural lands to allow for solar on pivot corners.
- **House Bill 2279**, evaluating the use of PFAS chemicals in agriculture.

From Recommendations to Action: Letters of Support

What the Forum Did

- February 2026: Submitted two letters to the Legislature highlighting Forum recommendations, including Managing Water to Ensure Food Security (2026)
- Forum reps testified early in session on water management planning in western WA
- Key message: flooding and drought now occur in the same year – current planning doesn't address this reality

What Followed

- No legislative proposal resulted directly from session
- However, in May 2026, the Governor and Dept. of Ecology launched Washington's Water Future
- A stakeholder-input initiative to develop proposals and collaborative planning processes around these issues

Learning from HB 2238

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Discussion



What does the 2026 legislative session suggest about the role the Forum's consensus work plays, or can play in the policy ecosystem?



What **signals of opportunity** do you see for advancing the Forum's current priorities in the near to medium term?

What **constraints or risks** should the Forum be realistic about as it moves forward?

What **questions** do you have for the group?

Forum Vice Chair Appointment

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Chair and Vice Chair

Responsibilities:

- Uphold the Forum's managing principles as described in the Forum's charter.
- Act on behalf of the Forum, not independently.
- Serve as a connection between the convening agencies coordinating staff and the Forum membership.
- Attend a Co-Leads meeting once a month (Tuesdays 1-2pm).

Specific roles and activities may include:

- Representing the Food Policy Forum's goals and consensus recommendations in various settings. Settings may include legislative committee meetings, stakeholder groups, conferences, etc. When representing the Forum, the chairs represents the goals and/or consensus recommendations of the Forum, not their personal/professional views or strategies.
- Opening and closing Forum meetings and assisting with managing Forum meetings.
- Participating in the development and revision of Forum meeting agendas.
- Supporting and providing input on the Forum's annual administrative priorities, including:
 - Engaging local food policy councils
 - Diversifying voices in the Forum

The Forum's statute states: *"A majority of the participating members appointed by the directors must appoint an administrative chair for the forum."*

The administrative chair serves a 12-month term and may serve alongside a vice chair, who will have the option to become chair after the term ends.

Appointment Process

June 2025-June 2026

- Chair: Chris Elder
- Vice Chair: Jon DeVaney

June 2026-June 2027

- Chair: Jon DeVaney
- **Vice Chair: Melissa Spear**

Process for appointment:

- Forum members nominated their Forum peers (April-May 2026)
- **TODAY:** Vote during Forum meeting (June 4, 2026)

Closing Reflections & Adjourn

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*Thank you to all of
today's meeting hosts
and speakers!*

2025-2027 Topical Teams & Priorities

Team Name	2025-27 Topical Priorities
Impacts of Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Supply for Agriculture and Food Production • Climate Resilience for Agriculture and Food Production
Agricultural Land Protection and Availability and Next Generation Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Succession Planning and Incentives
Alleviating Barriers to Small and Mid-Scale Farm Viability and Market Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Technical Expertise and Knowledge Transfer
Regional Food Infrastructure and Institutional Procurement for Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public-Private Partnership Models for Infrastructure Finance • Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Coordination
Food Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food System Coordination for Food Security • Eligibility and Access for Food Assistance Programs

Forum's Food System Lens

