

PSRC-KC Rural Area Economic Opportunities Meeting
KCLS Service Ctr, 960 Newport Way, Issaquah— Tuesday, November 28, 2017; 6:30-8:30 PM

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AGENDA

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lead Speaker(s)</u>
6:30	Greeting / Meeting Purpose / Introductions	Steve Hiester
6:40	Opening Remarks	Hendrick Haynes
6:45	Rural Area’s Unique Character	Peter Rimbo
6:50	Rural Area Particular Issues	Peter Rimbo
7:00	PSRC Regional Economic Strategies (RES)	Josh Brown
7:20	RES Rural Area Goals	Open Discussion
	<u>Goal:</u> <i>Open Economic Opportunities to Everyone</i>	
	<u>Strategy:</u> <i>Advance economic development within rural communities</i>	
	<u>Actions:</u> Those in the RES, plus those proposed for the Rural Area	
	<u>Goal:</u> <i>Sustain a High Quality of Life</i>	
	<u>Strategy:</u> <i>Preserve, enhance, & improve access to open space</i>	
	<u>Actions:</u> Those in the RES, plus those proposed for the Rural Area	
8:00	Regional Economic Strategies Implementation	Open Discussion
8:15	Next Steps / Where Do We Go From Here?	Open Discussion
8:25	Closing Remarks	Hendrick Haynes

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Meeting Purpose

A meeting between the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), King County (KC), and KC Rural Area Unincorporated Area Councils/Associations (UACs/UAs) to discuss the PSRC's Regional Economic Strategies (RES) document (currently being finalized by PSRC Staff) and implementation thereof, as well as rural economic opportunities.

Rural Area's unique character [ref.: KCCP 2016 Update—Glossary]

“Rural Character — Rural character refers to the pattern of land use and development established by a county in the rural element of its comprehensive plan:

- (a) In which open space, natural landscape, & vegetation predominate over built environment;*
- (b) That foster traditional rural lifestyles, rural-based economies, and opportunities to both live and work in Rural Areas;*
- (c) That provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found in Rural Areas and communities;*
- (d) That are compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat;*
- (e) That reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development;*
- (f) That generally do not require extension of urban governmental services; and*
- (g) That are consistent with the protection of natural surface water flows and groundwater and surface water recharge and discharge areas.”*

Rural Area's particular issues

While King County's Rural Area possesses so many unique qualities, as enumerated above, it also possesses many issues particular to those selfsame characteristics:

- (a) Traffic congestion primarily caused by pass-through traffic from adjacent cities;
- (b) Poor Code enforcement;
- (c) Poor Police coverage;
- (d) Siting of urban-serving facilities;
- (e) Delayed decontamination and reclamation of exhausted resource sites;
- (f) Massive growth in adjacent cities;
- (g) Incompatible zoning (e.g., Marijuana Grow Operations and Manufacturing/Processing Facilities);
- (h) Spot Industrial Zones in rural residential areas; and
- (i) Low funding priority for some essential public services.

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PSRC Regional Economic Strategies (RES)

The RES provides overarching “Goals” and underlying “Strategies,” which include: “What Needs To Happen.” The following Goals, Strategies, and Actions address Rural Area interests.

Goal: Open Economic Opportunities to Everyone

Strategy: Advance economic development within rural communities:

“The region’s rural lands ... offer a link to area’s past growth and future promise. Rural ... communities offer proximity to recreation, natural resources, and workforce vital to surrounding urban centers. These communities continue to diversify and strengthen their local economies in ways that celebrate each community’s unique assets and character. Supporting living wage jobs in these vibrant economies is critical to the region’s economic success and quality of life.”

Actions: (UAC/UAA-recommended additions underlined below)

- Restore/complete major trail systems—Need to be compatible with environmental interests and local culture
- Encourage compatible recreational use in rural areas
- Support agriculture & other rural industries—Need to encourage long-term sustainable agriculture and associated small businesses
- Support preservation of County transportation infrastructure—Need equitable funding mechanisms to maintain and reduce environmental impact of rural transportation infrastructure that is increasingly used by urban commuters to travel to other urban areas
- Expand broadband internet access to rural communities—Need to facilitate telecommuting, distance learning, and small businesses that depend upon high-speed internet access
- Improve tax distribution
- Reduce regulatory roadblocks
- Promote telecommuting
- Strengthen on-line education
- Encourage local job formation by creating a way to embrace start-up/small businesses within trade groups/coalitions while recognizing their valuable human/physical resources.
- Encourage development of college programs supporting start-up business and small-business evolution, including STEM mentoring and student internships

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Goal: Sustain a High Quality of Life

Strategy: Preserve, enhance, & improve access to open space

Actions: (UAC/UAA-recommended additions underlined below)

- Conserve resources & environment thru VISION 2040 policies
- Preserve/enhance open space, wildlife corridors, & ecosystems
- Support conservation planning at the local level
- Improve access to open space & regional trails
- Preserve rural lands and rural character (“Keep the Rural Area Rural”) by ensuring urban and urban-serving facilities remain in urban areas
- Reduce environmental impact to salmon populations throughout their feeding, migration, breeding, and growth cycle
- Promote, encourage, mentor, and sponsor commercial leadership (including business start-ups, small business, and disadvantaged businesses) in developing, producing, and evolving local solutions toward progress on greenhouse-gas-reduction goals
- Encourage, and actively assist, compatible Rural Area business opportunities