

LINN COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY REVIEW COMMITTEE

March 30, 2023

Balancing Agriculture and Solar
Meeting Summary



Balancing Agriculture and Solar

- The Balancing Agriculture and Solar (BAS) committee met in the Planning & Development Department Conference Room on the 1st Floor of the Jean Oxley Public Service Center.
- In attendance:

Balancing Agriculture and Solar	
Steve Emerson (Architect)	Diane Brecht (Planning and Zoning Commission Member)
Greg Bickal (Coggon Solar non-participating adjoining landowner)	Tom Wieseler (City of Mount Vernon - Mayor)
Gary Scott (retired electrical engineer)	Mike Tertinger (Linn County staff liaison)

- Jon Gallagher: Resource Conservationist and Director of the Linn County Soil Conservation Department, and the Linn County Affiliate to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Balancing Agriculture and Solar

- Action items from the BAS committee March 30 meeting:
 - Review highlights from Brian Ross discussion/presentation slides from 3/23
 - Finalize the Recommendations/Statements centered on the following topics:
 - Minimum panel height above 32 inches and its impact on long term soil health
 - Requiring a Vegetation and Ag Mitigation Plan and associated components
 - Requiring an Agriculture Impact Mitigation and associated components
 - Requiring a Habitat and Wildlife Preservation Plan and associated components
 - Grading impact of a solar farm and possible limits to soil depth / slope restrictions
 - Establishing limits on array field size/length to enable wildlife corridor establishment
 - Scorecard development to promote long term soil health and limit impact on future agriculture
 - Severe Weather/Disaster Management plan must be a required submittal
 - Agrivoltaics emphasis should be incorporated into scorecard design
 - Educational/Informational signage for pollinator/wildlife corridor protection areas should be allowed by county
 - Woodland Inventory and Mitigation Plan should be a required submittal