

**NINE STEP PLANNER  
CLARK COUNTY WORK SESSIONS**

This form needs to be reviewed and approved by the council **before** a work session is scheduled.

REQUESTED BY: *Community Planning*

**1. TOPIC: Hemp Cultivation and Processing**

**2. WORK SESSION:**

Staff members to present and attend the work session:  
Sharon Lumbantobing, Michael Sallis, Colete Anderson, and Oliver Orjiako

**3. TIME FRAME:**

LENGTH OF TIME NEEDED: 60 minutes

DESIRED DATE: March 25, 2020

SCHEDULED DATE OF WORK SESSION: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. TIMING CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Federal Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 changed certain federal authorities relating to the production, processing, and marketing of hemp. These changes include allowing hemp cultivation with certain regulations and removing hemp from the Federal Controlled Substance Act. Under ESSB 5276, the Washington state Department of Agriculture Industrial Hemp Harvest Inspection Program will transition from its Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program to implementation of a commercial hemp program. As such, hemp will be considered an agricultural commodity. Because current county code allows agriculture in all zones, the county council should anticipate state legislation on commercial hemp, and explore which zones are best suited to hemp cultivation and processing, or whether the county wants to prohibit hemp cultivation and processing in the county.

On November 13, 2019, the county council approved the 2020 Work Plan for Community Planning, which included exploring the possibility of allowing hemp cultivation and processing in the County.

**5. DESIRED RESULTS:**

On November 13, 2019, the county council requested an informational work session to learn about the differences between hemp and marijuana, recent legislative changes regarding hemp, end-markets, and economic opportunities of hemp.

**6. IMPACTS (COMMUNITY/FINANCIAL/STAFF/OTHER):**

Washington State is in a transition from the industrial hemp program to implementation of a commercial hemp program. There are potential economic benefits to farmers and the county for allowing hemp production and processing. However, there may be some zones which are not desirable for hemp production and processing that the county may want to consider.

7. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

None at this time.

8. **ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED:**

- Understanding the regulatory differences between marijuana and hemp.
- Understanding the changing state regulatory environment for hemp cultivation and processing.
- Exploring which zones are best suited to hemp cultivation and processing.
- Understanding how to manage public perception.

9. **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Direct staff to:

- 1) set up a study tour for council to visit a hemp farm;
- 2) explore which zones are best suited to hemp cultivation and processing;
- 3) talk with the farming community to get their input, or
- 4) prohibit hemp cultivation and processing in the county.

Signature of requestor:

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DATE: Jan 28, 2020

**APPROVED FOR SCHEDULING:**