

Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2018
3:00 PM
501 Texas Street, Downstairs Conference Room
Fairfield, California 94534-9700
Phone 707-784-1310

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm by Moira Burke

Members Present: Moira Burke, Barbara Comfort, Morgan Doran (?), Lisa Howard, Jennifer King, Mary Helen Seeger, Bruce Brazeltine, Craig Leathers, Jeff Dittmer, Al Medvetz

Members not present: Russ Lester, Ian Anderson

Guests present: Sharon Garrett, Sarah Hawkins, Simon Hardy

Recruitment for open positions

Discussed currently open positions- grape production, processing, and as of this meeting, small farm; encouraged people to bring forward names, discuss with possible candidates.

Goal setting for 2018- Discussion about Sol Agra project, will be discussed under the Renewable Energy Group. Proposed crop(s) so far- alfalfa and less than a dozen others. Still waiting for project design before the committee can give a recommendation. Committee decided that there was a need for last years' goals to be reviewed so it can be more fully discussed/memory can be jogged/creative juices flowing at 2018 goals at the February meeting
Possible: labor issues, migrant workers, marijuana regulations (currently a moratorium is in place for production in the county, but the various cities have their own regulations). Maybe getting a handle on all of the different aspects of what all the aspects of the marijuana business are. BY THE END OF THE year, we'd be able to offer a well rounded amount of advice to the Supervisors should they ask. There's also interest in hemp processing/growing- both fiber and seed. CDFA is currently developing a hemp pilot program.

Does the committee want to have farm tours again? Past issue has been lack of funding for transportation and lots of work to do the tour.

Determined we will finalize a list at the February meeting.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Exotic Pest Updates

No more medflies have been found, we have not been cold enough to kill all the larvae. Grower meeting for those in the quarantine is February 20th. Simone updated the committee about public outreach efforts to educate regarding the medfly issue, took suggestions for further ideas- grocery stores, farmer's markets, association websites, big box pest eradication areas

Local Food Shed Working group

No updates

Renewable energy working group

Will be looking at SolAgra issue

Pesticide update

Pesticide meeting on January 18- mostly for government agencies (schools, parks, etc), fills continuing education units for people who need that. February 23 will be pesticides near schools regulations- growers who fall in this category have been sent information regarding it.

Farmbudsmen

New office space opens this month at the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce for the SBDC and classes can be held there in the future.

Bicycles

Not much change has been seen in bicyclist behavior

LESA progress

No report as of now. Would like to see the county move forward with incorporating the LESA process into county wide planning.

GSA report

We have a new representative (Lisa!)

Manka's Corner signage

It's still there, being added to. The committee has decided that this issue no longer needs to be on the monthly agenda.

Al brought up the subject of using livestock for fuel load reduction for wild fires

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30