

Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
3:00 PM
501 Texas Street, Downstairs Conference Room
Fairfield, California 94534-9700
Phone 707-784-1310

MINUTES

Ag Advisory Meeting January 9, 2019

Meeting called to order at 3:00 by Russ Lester

Members present:, Bruce Brazelton, Craig Leathers, Barbara Comfort, Mary Helen Seeger, Moira Burke, Jeff Dittmer, Russ Lester

Members not present: Ian Anderson, Jennifer King, Al Medvitz, Lisa Howard,

Guests present: Simone Hardy, Agricultural Commissioner; Jose Arriaga, Acting Agricultural Commissioner; Christine Rogers, CAO's Office; Wendy Rash, NRCS; Morgan Doran, UC Ag Extension; Sarah Hawkins, Farmbudsman; Captain Mark Headrick, CHP officer

Craig Leathers moved and Bruce Brazelton seconded approving the agenda, passed unanimously.

Moira Burke moved Bruce Brazelton and approved the minutes with a couple of spelling corrections, passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity

Simone Hardy was congratulated on her service to the County and wished well on her retirement at the most recent BOS meeting. Jose Arriaga has been appointed Acting Agricultural Commissioner, and will take over Simone's duties.

B. Planning Commission

Approved the change in zoning to the parcel discussed in the December 12, 2018 AAC meeting to allow military vehicles in the Ag Tourism zone, now the matter will go to the Board of Supervisors. The committee hasn't sent the letter discussed during the December 12 meeting, as it is still being drafted.

C. Planning Report for Ag Tour Working Group

The Ag Tour agenda is on the January 22, 2019 BOS agenda for approval, so invites/save the date cards can go out by the end of the month. Most of the tour is planned, but still waiting to hear from one potential stop. Deadline for getting the informational packet together and approved is April 1.

D. Discussion of Committee Openings

No new names were brought forward, so the committee will revisit this next month

E. Follow-Up Draft Letter asking the Board of Supervisors to consider updating the Ag Study for Solano County

Edits to the letter discussed at the last meeting were implemented, so it is ready to go.

F. Follow-Up ATC Zoning

See Planning Commission item above.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

a. Agricultural Updates

-Simone Hardy is retiring at the end of this week (and she will be missed!), Jose Arriaga has been appointed as acting Agricultural Commissioner.

-Two new biologists have been hired, they are undergoing training and feedback is welcome on how they do.

-The Secretary of Agriculture for the state has been reappointed by the new Governor, so no changes there.

Exotic Pest Update:

Egyptian Broom Rape- working on documenting it and its eradication in a form that is easy to find and not just in someone's memory. Currently looks like it has been eradicated, but the department wants to make sure that action can be taken much more quickly if it reoccurs.

b. Renewable Energy Working Group

No updates right now

c. Farmbudsman

The Workforce Development Board was announced as the new local sponsor of the Solano Small Business Development Center and is in the process of moving offices. Several of the projects the Farmbudsman is working on are still in the early development stages, so nothing exciting to report out just yet.

d. Bicycles

Concerns have been expressed about people staying too long on the routes/rides. Captain Mark Headrick, of the CHP, spoke about getting routes ahead of time for the Foxy Fall event, how many officers they can devote to the event, and the fact that because these are rides not races, this means some of the riders are going to take longer to finish the routes. Some of the law enforcement resources were not available for events because of other emergencies in the greater area, which may be why it seemed like there were less officers attending to the 2018 ride. Despite this, officers were quite busy with working on law enforcement during the event. The organizers of the event did pay around \$13,000 for law enforcement activities. No collisions, no

major injuries during the event, so it was considered successful by CHP. Discussion ensued about bicycles going through stop signs and not obeying traffic laws, and events that may get permitted by CHP, but they don't get any of the other permits that they need. The committee asked if there was a way that CHP could help to make sure those permits are obtained, and suggestions were given as to how this might happen without being overly burdensome for CHP. Russ Lester expressed a desire for the bicycle working group to have a meeting again in the near future. Contact information for Captain Headrick is 707-428-2100, mheadrick@chp.ca.gov

e. LESA progress

Wendy Rash is meeting with Bill Emlign of Resource Management to discuss the LESA project and how many staff hours would be needed to work on it. The LESA project could be used for developing a good mitigation policy for the county, and may also be helpful for the Solano Land Trust in figuring out the best areas for them to move forward. If anyone has thoughts about the project, Wendy would like to hear from people before her meeting next Wednesday.

f. GSA Report

No new meetings until February 14.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Next meeting is the one where office nominations happen and officers are elected, and a reminder that spring is usually when we have a meeting discussing goals for the year.

Mary Helen Seeger asked again that people think about who they can convince to get involved with the AAC

Chris Rogers brought County Annual Reports for everyone.

Mary Helen also pointed out that the change in governors may change water policy direction in the state, something everyone probably should keep an eye on.

Next meeting will be January 9, 2019

Adjourn meeting at 4:35