

Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2019
3:00 PM
501 Texas Street, Downstairs Conference Room
Fairfield, California 94534-9700
Phone 707-784-1310

MINUTES

Ag Advisory Meeting March 13, 2019

Meeting called to order at 3:08 by Russ Lester

Members present: Bruce Brazelton, Mary Helen Seeger, Moira Burke, Russ Lester, Barbara Comfort, Craig Leathers, Al Medvitz, Lisa Howard, Ian Anderson,

Members not present: Jennifer King, Jeff Dittmer,

Guests present: Jose Arriaga, Acting Agricultural Commissioner; Christine Rogers, CAO's Office; Sharon Garrett, Agricultural Office Staff; Sarah Hawkins, Farmbudsman; Nedzlene Ferrario, Resource Management; Roberta Gulart, Resource Management; Misty Kaltreider, Environmental Health;

Moira Burke moved and Barbara Comfort seconded approving the agenda, passed unanimously.

The minutes from the February meeting were not available

New Business

A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity

The Farmbudsman presented at the BOS meeting in February and the Supervisors accepted the update.

Supervisor Vasquez introduced a resolution to honor Agriculture Week, the second week of March, with the FFA representing the agricultural community.

B. Planning Commission

No update from the county, though the committee did bring up some questionable uses of ag land they've been reading about around the county.

C. Planning Report for Ag Tour Working Group

Still working on seeking sponsors for the lunch, Morgan is working on brochures. Speakers have been confirmed, RSVPs are coming in. Working group asked the committee who will be attending to get a tentative head count. Some of the details of the tour were discussed amongst committee members.

D. Discussion of Committee Openings

Moira has invited a young couple who do beekeeping to come to an AAC, the Farmbudsman has invited a Green Valley farmer to future meetings, so maybe we have some prospects on the horizon.

E. Appoint the Board Officers for the 2019 Term

This will be on the agenda until we find a new vice-chair, so be sure to think about who will be the best next vice chair.

F. Lookout Slough in the Cache Slough area and agricultural mitigation

Cache Slough being looked at for flood mitigation and tidal habitat restoration, though currently it is involved in agricultural production. The county is interested in figuring out how we mitigate for agricultural production when these lands are converted from farming. Trying to cover a range of mitigation issues, so really looking for farmer feedback, especially on things the county might not think of. Because there isn't the land in the county to mitigate at a 1:1.5 rate, the county is thinking of developing a mitigation fee instead. Want to develop a Cache Slough plan so that when land use changes come forward, they will have the guidelines to say what steps are going to happen going forward. The Liberty Farms project is going to happen because of a biological opinion issued in 2008 stating that there needed to be mitigation for the State Water Project, but the County wants input on future projects that might happen.

Mary Helen Seeger moved to form a working group to further discuss the Delta project and mitigation language for a General Plan amendment. Motion was seconded by Lisa Howard. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous. Group members will be: Lisa Howard, Ian Anderson, Moira Burke, Al Medvitz, and Barbara Comfort

Craig Leathers moved and Moira Burke seconded writing a letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing the opinion of the committee that they'd like a greater lead time (than two or three months) when it comes to discussing issues impacting agriculture, especially when it comes to large projects. Vote was unanimous.

G. Response to Governor Newsom's Single Tunnel Idea

The County is trying to figure out what the single tunnel means- they don't know if the project is still viable as a single tunnel or if this is the way the Governor is going to try to kill the project. Staff is "keeping their powder dry" until they know better what direction things are headed in.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- a. LESA progress
No progress on preproposal just yet
- b. Agricultural Updates

State Senate Bill 458 to ban chlorpyrifos has been introduced.

April 9 will be the farmworker field training workshop for the County from 8-10 at the Dixon May Fair grounds, given in Spanish.

Vine mealybug information workshop done by the Ag staff was very well attended.

Survey going out about the Food Safety Modernization Act- producers are encouraged to respond to it. CDFA is trying to determine who will need to be in the program- many people who think they will be covered, aren't, and the survey will tell you that.

c. Farmbudsman

Presentation was given to the BOS on February 26, and it seemed to go well.

d. Bicycles

No update

e. GSA Report

Next meeting has been postponed again. Open houses are being held for SGMA rollout, everyone is encouraged to go.

Solanogsp.com has the actual plan on it for all to see.

f. Ag Study for Solano County working group

Letter still being worked on

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Misty Kaltreider- USDA is seeking comments on Conservation practices

Next meeting will be April 10, 2019

Adjourn meeting at 5:05