

Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2020

3:00PM – 5:00PM

501 Texas Street, Downstairs Conference Room

Fairfield, California 94534-9700

Phone 707-784-1310

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 3:08 by Russ Lester

Members present: Russ Lester, Craig Leathers, Bruce Brazelton, Moira Burke, Al Medvitz, Jeff Dittmer

Members not present: Mary Helen Seeger, Jennifer King, Lisa Howard, Barbara Comfort,

Guests present: Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Sharon Garrett, Office Assistant II (C); Sarah Hawkins, Farmbudsman; Chris Rogers, Management Analyst (Principal); Morgan Doran, UCANR; Priscilla Yeane, Assistant Ag Commissioner; Traci Ellison, Solano Land Trust, Bill Emlen, Director of Resource Management; Dee Dee Barrett, District 3 BOS Office

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

Craig Leathers moved and Jeff Dittmer seconded approving the minutes with one correction to the vote on approving the January minutes, passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity

No update

B. Planning Commission

No update

C. Discussion of Committee Openings

Three openings still need to be filled

D. Ruhstaller Brewery/Taproom

Bill Emlen presented information on a proposal to turn an old welding shop into a brewery and tap room (approx 1,000 sq feet), along with planting some hops on the property. Up to 12 events per year, 150 people per event requested on the proposed use permit.

Committee discussed if there would be traffic issues with Pedrick Road interchange,

especially during tomato harvesting season, and whether inebriated people would be a traffic concern. Approximately 20 acres of the property is to be planted in hops, as the project is currently proposed. Comment period ends a week from today, committee members are welcome to email comments to Bill Emlen directly.

Also shared that the Flannery Group is now up to 25,000 acres in the county. The county still isn't sure why they are buying land.

E. Bicyclists Recommendation Letter to the BOS

At the last meeting, there was a request to send a letter to the Board about bicycle issues. Ed King circulated a letter from 2011 that was sent from the AAC to the BOS addressing the same issue and requested the committee let him know if there should be a more specific ask than is in that letter. Request is going to be to have the group that came about after the 2011 letter start up again to address the continuing issues. Concern with this not just being a venting session, but actually getting some change to happen. Al Medvitz moved that a letter be written reconvening the working group about bicycles and including the 2011 letter to show how things haven't changed. Seconded by Craig Leathers, passed unanimously

CONTINUING BUSINESS

a. LESA progress

No updates. Wendy Rash is now also in charge of Napa County NRCS, so time has been limited for working on LESA. Tracy Ellison offered to help as much as she can with the process.

b. Agricultural Updates

Aiming to provide an update to the BOS on industrial hemp, along with Resource Management and County Counsel. Next AAC meeting there should be a more detailed update

European Grape Berry Moth - a number of counties will start to monitor for this pest. t
Spotted Lantern Fly - another prolific pest of grapes, established population in Pennsylvania is threatening to move West - have been a few anecdotal sightings. Has been found on several planes that have made it to California, though dead. Also a pest of walnuts. Preferred host is tree of heaven.

Nutria - 866 taken to date, northernmost detection to date is still Stockton. A genetic study is being undertaken to try to determine nutria origins.

c. Farmbudsman: Updated the committee with 2019 Economic impact

d. Bicycles

See letter discussion above

e. GSA report

No recent meetings. GSA reports can be found on the SCWA website.

- f. State Water Resilience Portfolio
Number of tunnels not nearly important as the volume of water being transported. DWR recently released Notice of Preparation for the Delta Conveyance EIR and is now hosting scoping meetings. The County will submit comments. With sea level rise, if the intake places don't change, sea water will inundate the intake(s), so looks like they may shift north - maybe 30 miles north. Roberta and Misty in Resource Management are monitoring the project.

- g. Ag Futures Study Working Group
Moirra and AI have volunteered to work on this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

None offered

Next meeting will be March 11, 2020

Adjourn meeting at 4:35pm

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Hawkins, Farmbudsman and Sharon Garrett, Office Assistant II (C)