

SOLANO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 3:00 P.M.

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting called to order at 3:05 by Moira Burke

Members present: Moira Burke, Ian Anderson, Lisa Howard, Jennifer King, Al Medvitz, Jeff Dittmer

Members absent: Bruce Brazelton, Russ Lester, Barbara Comfort, Craig Leathers

Guests present: Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Allan Calder, Resource Management Planning Manager; Morgan Doran, UCCE Advisor; Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager; Matt Tuggle, Public Works Engineering Manager; Chris Rogers, CAO's Office; Priscilla Yeane, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner; Amy Sharp, District 5 Board Aide; Danette Mercado, District 5 Board Aide; Dan Carey, farmer; Greg House, farmer; Chelsea Deussenberry, Superior Farms; Tanis Hicks, Office Supervisor; Dan Carey, grower.

Agenda Approval: The Agenda was approved with no additions or deletions.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the regular meeting of December 9, 2020 were unanimously approved as prepared.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity

The BOS recently considered zoning text amendments for accessory dwellings in residential districts and reviewed permit requirements for commercial land uses including special events and short-term rentals on properties served by private roads. The BOS directed the latter item back to the Planning Commission for further review including recommendation to provide right-to-farm notifications to permit applicants.

B. Update on recent Planning Commission activity

No updates.

C. Committee Openings

Potential new committee members Chelsea Deussenberry and Greg House introduced themselves. Chelsea is the Director of TechX at Superior Farms, Greg is an organic grower in the Dixon area as well as ag consultant and teaches ag economics and rural appraisal at UCD. Ian moved and it was seconded to recommend to the BOS that Chelsea, Greg and Dan Carey, who introduced himself at a previous meeting, be

appointed to the committee. The committee's recommendation will be noted in the BOS staff report.

D. Review Delta Issues Recommendation Letter to the Board of Supervisors

Moira recommended adding air quality and carbon sequestration as benefits of Delta preservation to the draft letter to the BOS recommending opposition to the Delta Conveyance project. Misty and Morgan recommended further review of potential sequestration increases connected to the conveyance project in comparison to those of continued agricultural activities in the Delta. Misty suggested looking at the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Adapts Draft Vulnerability Assessment which advocates for more restoration and conversion of ag lands to tidal wetlands for climate change mitigation. Al will review the issue further before editing the draft letter.

E. Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough Partnership – Ag Sustainability Work Group

The Ag Sustainability Work Group is developing an action plan with strategies and programs to keep ag sustainable in the Delta in the face of various restoration projects and proposed conveyance tunnels. Al volunteered to attend the work group's February meeting.

F. 2021 Committee Officer Nominations and Elections

Postponed until March.

G. 2021 Committee Goals

Formal adoption of 2021 goals delayed until March. Proposed tasks for 2021 include:

- Assess LNU fire recovery efforts and seek ways to assist ag recovery in the burned area.
- Monitor COVID-19 impacts on small farms.
- Promote agritourism as a valid method to preserve family farms.
- Begin consideration and planning for a 2022 Ag Tour
- Compile recommendations of ag issues to be included in a new ag futures study.
- Monitor and contribute to the development of the groundwater sustainability plan.
- Work with Public Works, STA and CHP on projects to promote safe ag transport and bicycle traffic on rural roadways.
- Monitor progress of the proposed Delta Conveyance project.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. COVID-19 Impacts on Solano Small Farms

No update.

B. Ag Futures Study

Will consider annual committee goals as a means to identify and prioritize issues for recommended inclusion in a new ag futures study.

C. Ag-Bicycle Issues

A bicycle advisory subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 11 with STA, Public Works, CHP and AAC representatives to discuss bike and ag safety improvement projects for 2021. STA has a signage grant that may fund warning/advisory signs and Public Works may be able to accent planned projects with signage or shoulder widening for bike and ag traffic safety. AAC may consider informing Public Works of specific

roads or sites that would benefit from new signage or other improvements that would promote both bike and ag vehicle safety.

D. Agricultural Updates - Ag Department Staff

- The department is busy processing 2021 pesticide permits and conducting weights and measures inspections.
- 2020 Crop report surveys are being tallied. If you have ag photos that you think may be suitable for use in the report please share them with the department.
- The county industrial hemp cultivation ordinance went into effect in early December. The department is fielding occasional interest calls from potential growers but no permit applications have been submitted to Resource Management.
- The department continues to have COVID-19 PPE available for ag producers. Call the department to place an order and arrange pick up.

E. GSA

February Board meeting canceled. Chapter 2 of the GSP will be released soon for review.

F. State Water Resilience Portfolio

No update.

G. Flannery Associates Land Acquisitions

No update.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

Next Meeting Date – March 10, 2021

Meeting Adjourned – 4:33 p.m.