

SOLANO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 3:00 P.M.

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 3:12 p.m. by Moira Burke

Members Present: Moira Burke, Ian Anderson, Lisa Howard, Craig Leathers, Bruce Brazelton, Jen King, Al Medvitz.

Members Absent: Russ Lester, Barbara Comfort, Jeff Dittmer

Guests Present: Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Morgan Doran, UCCE; Allan Calder, Planning Manager; Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager; Amy Sharp and Danette Mercado, District 5 Aides; Priscilla Yeane Assistant Agricultural Commissioner; Dick Tzou, Resource Management; Tanis Hicks, Agriculture Department Office Supervisor.

Teleconference Meeting Resolution:

Governor Newsom signed AB 361 in September extending Brown Act virtual meeting exemptions for legislative bodies, including local boards and commissions. To continue the teleconference meeting the committee must be in agreement that meeting in person poses a health hazard to attendees. Craig Leathers approved adopting the resolution, and Moira Burke seconded, motion carries. A resolution will need to be re-adopted every 30 days in order to continue to meet virtually.

Approval of the Agenda: Agenda approved with no additions or deletions.

Review/Approval August 2021 Meeting Minutes: August minutes approved as prepared.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Plans:

Motion by Al Medvitz to continue meeting virtually for COVID-19 safety. Committee to review upcoming meeting status monthly. Seconded by Craig Leathers. Motion carries.

B. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity:

No updates.

Lisa informed the committee that the City of Fairfield general plan update contains alternative options for city expansion into Suisun Valley and Cordelia agricultural lands.

Al suggested the committee receive periodic updates on city land use planning efforts that may impact the county.

Misty reported that Vallejo adopted a new urban water management plan update.

Ian requested that the committee discuss loss of ag lands in the eastern part of the county and appropriate mitigation at an upcoming meeting.

C. Update on recent Planning Commission activity:

On October 21st a use permit for Bally Keal, a new winery in Suisun Valley, will be considered.

D. Ag Advisory Committee Review Project:

In the process of signing an agreement with Ag Innovations to conduct an assessment of agriculture in Solano, including current and forecast trends, issues, and challenges through a series of interviews with stakeholders across the local ag community over the next several months. The goal is to give the Board a full understanding and update to where ag is at in the County. A part of the agreement is an assessment of the AAC.

E. Drought Status Reports:

Continuing to monitor drought conditions through winter. Collecting information on conditions and challenges, especially dry wells. DWR has a dry well reporting site,

<https://mydrywell.water.ca.gov>, as does the County:

https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/environmental_health/well_reporting_form.asp.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

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

Last met in September. DWR was invited to join the work group. Monitoring how land use changes in the Bypass affect ag, how those changes can be identified and how to improve coordination and early consultation with the State or other entities before projects start.

B. Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan:

October GSP Board meeting canceled, next one is November 11th. A GSP virtual town hall is also scheduled for November 9th.

C. Ag-Bicycle Issues:

Governor Newsom signed a bill that allows bicyclists to roll through stop signs.

D. Agricultural Updates - Ag Department Staff:

The Ag Department has been busy with multiple pest finds. Trapped a single Japanese beetle at TAFB in July, with no additional finds through August. In mid-September staff trapped a single glassy-winged sharpshooter at the Fairfield Lowes. In early October, 33 adult glassy-winged sharpshooters were trapped, along with finding 3 dozen egg mass scars in the Browns Valley area of Vacaville. Working on emergency response efforts with CDFA's Pierce's Disease Control Program. A portion Vacaville will be declared as an

infested area. The infestation is confined to a residential area and is not impacting agriculture. Biologists will be going door-to-door seeking permission to treat infested properties. Contracting with a pest control business to make the treatments as weather permits. Additional treatments may be necessary for February/March of next year.

CDFA has formed a spotted lantern fly task force and is developing a response plan. SLF has become well-established in the northeastern U.S. and is threatening to expand westward. The Ag Department is planning to control tree of heaven, SLF's preferred host, near local vineyards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. Public Comment:

Allan Calder reported that TAFB has recently stopped irrigating due to a lack of staffing on the base. As a result, TAFB has approximately one million gallons of secondary treated water daily that they are discharging into Union Creek. This water is potentially available for groundwater recharge or other uses.

Morgan Doran provided an update on UCCE positions: with an increase in UC ANR funding this year looking to hire 100-110 new Advisor and Specialist positions throughout the state. Locally, received approval to hire Environmental Horticulture and Food Systems advisors and seeking approval to hire Vegetable Crop, Viticulture/Fruit Crops, 4H Youth Development and Ag Enterprise/Economic Development advisor positions.

Next Meeting Date: November 10, 2021

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 p.m