

SOLANO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Meeting called to order at 3:06 by Vice Chair Howard.

Members Present: Russ Lester, Lisa Howard, Ian Anderson, Barbara Comfort, Jeff Dittmer, Craig Leathers,

Members Absent: Bruce Brazelton, Moira Burke, Al Medvitz, Jen King

Guests Present: Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Priscilla Yeane, Asst. Agricultural Commissioner; Allan Calder, Planning Manager; Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager; Morgan Doran, UCCE; Nancy Nelson, CAOs Office; Amy Sharp and Danette Mercado, District 5 Aides; Nancy Nelson, CAOs Office; Amy Newton, CHP.

Teleconference Meeting Resolution: Resolution previously approved on April 13, 2022 to continue meetings via teleconference pursuant to requirements of Assembly Bill 361 and California Government Code section 54953(e).

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

Approval of Minutes: April meeting minutes approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Update on Board of Supervisor's activity
 - Denied appeal of a proposed new waste transfer facility to be located on Schroeder Rd.
 - Approved allocation of state funding for wildfire prevention support including radio interoperability and fuels reduction equipment.

- B. Update on Planning Commission activity

E&C Winery proposal is going to the Planning Commission on June 16. Allan, or the project applicant, will brief the committee on the project during the committee's June meeting.

- C. Review pending legislation: AB 2201 – Groundwater extraction permit verification

Misty and Ed provided an overview of AB 2201 including provisions preventing local agencies from approving new well permits or alterations to existing wells before a GSA verifies that a new well or repair is consistent with the local GSP or "is not likely to interfere with production and functioning of nearby wells"; a GSA may impose fees for making the previously mentioned determinations; and, a GSA must post notification of well permits on its website for 30 days for public comment before issuing determinations to a local permitting agency. Committee discussion favored letting the Governor's recent executive order on drought and water conservation, which imposed similar requirements on GSAs, stand and provide regulatory

guidance before codifying these restrictions into the state Water Code.

- D. Update and discussion on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation fees
Next GSA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for May 12. The Board will be discussing options for funding GSP implementation. Russ explained that the Board is considering the possibility of incorporating fees on the property tax roll. The GSA is on a tight timeline to implement a fee schedule, to avoid state intervention, and is considering a flat rate per acre fee basis for lack of data or other means to determine how a sliding scale for various types of groundwater uses could be implemented. Misty shared that Sonoma area GSAs are considering fees ranging from \$35-\$400 per acre foot of water. Ian informed the committee that a \$2-\$4 per acre charge could equal a 20% increase in Montezuma Hills area pasture rental fees and advised that dryland growers not using groundwater should be consider fee-exempt.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- A. Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough Partnership – Ag Sustainability Work Group
No new updates. Waiting on new contract. Once approved, work group will start again.
- B. County Ag Study
Stakeholder study interviews are close to 75% complete. The project subcommittee overseeing the study is meeting with Ag Innovations on June 1 to receive an interim report on completed interview findings.
- C. Agricultural Department Updates
- First glassy-winged sharpshooter biocontrol releases were made in Vacaville during late April using three different species of stingless wasps that parasitize sharpshooter egg masses. Planning to continue with additional release every two months moving forward.
 - Fruit fly, European grapevine moth, Japanese beetle and spongy moth trapping is now underway for the summer.
 - Planning to present the 2021 crop report to the Board in July. Still tallying numbers. Likely to have the same top five commodities in terms of value as 2020: almonds, tomatoes, nursery, cattle and alfalfa.
 - Disaster designation for February crop damages due to freezing temperatures was reviewed by Cal OES and forwarded to USDA with request for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Morgan – UCCE is recruiting a new Food Systems Advisor to serve Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Nevada and Placer Counties. The interview process will include applicant presentations open to the public. Morgan will send the information to Ed to share with the committee if anyone is interested in attending.

Allan – Resource Management Planning Division is finalizing a proposal with a consultant to undertake a review of the County's Williamson Act uniform rules and included time for AAC participation.

NEXT MEETING DATE – June 8, 2022

MEETING ADJOURNED – 4:04 p.m.