SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
FINAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
February 9, 2011

The meeting of the Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) was held at the Department of Agriculture and UC Cooperative Extension Building, Downstairs Conference Room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA.

Members Present:

Bruce Brazelton, Moira Burke, Barbara Comfort, Jeff Dittmer, Don Johnson. Craig Leathers, Russ Lester, Al Medvitz, Mary Helen Seeger, James Wallace

Others Present:

Fred Zaragoza	Aide to Supervisor Reagan
Jim Allan	Ag Commissioner

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Russ Lester at 3:15 PM.

Item 2 Introductions of Members and Guests

The Members and Guests in attendance introduced themselves.

Item 3 Changes and Approval of the Agenda

Agenda was approved unanimously.

Item 4 Review/Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2011

The minutes for January 12, 2011 were approved.

Item 5 New Business

(a) Report on Board of Supervisors Meetings-Board Topics Related to Subject Matter of the AAC

No items to report.

(b) Ag Tour Working Group Update- Al Medvitz

Working group met and brought back to the group the idea of taking donations to fund the Delta tour. They would like to see if they can get the support of the Supervisors with the presumption of no county funds provided and funds would come from outside contributors. Motion passes to continue process of supporting the Delta Tour, Jim and Carole will bring back information at March mtg.

(c) Local Food shed Working Group

The committee voted in favor of creating a Local Food Shed working group which consists of Jim Wallace, Moira Burke and Russ Lester. Moira Burke will be the chair of the working group.

On March 14, 2011 American Farm Land Trust will sponsor a function at ABAG auditorium in Oakland, Strategic Action Workshop for the Bay Area Agricultural Sustainability Project.

http://action.farmland.org/site/DocServer/BAASS_White_Paper_FINAL_011811.pdf?docID=3142

(d) Delta Education Working Group

This item will be moved to future business. Committee will focus on Delta Tour for the immediate future.

(e) Renewable Energy Working Group

The committee voted to create a working group to review Renewable Energy. The members are Russ Lester and Mary Helen Seeger. Russ Lester will be the chair.

Item 6 Continuing Business

(a) General Plan Update/Agricultural Regions Study

Jim Leland has prepared information to share with the use of Ag land policy working group which includes Moira Burke, Barbara Comfort, Don Johnson, Jeff Dittmer and Russ Lester. They will meet on February 22, 2011 at 2pm at 501 Texas Street upstairs conference room.

(b) EGVM/LBAM Update-Jim Allan

LBAM federal funding runs out in September 30, 2011, and USDA doesn't anticipate any money to be included for LBAM special projects. There were also additional finds in Idaho and Oregon.

Federal Government has granted California 17.9 million dollars for EGVM programs within the state. To move wine grapes from Solano County growers will have similar treatments and compliance agreements as last year. Mr. Allan will start his EGVM blog to the growers next week.

There will also be two outreach meeting regarding Spotted wing drosophila one for home gardeners and California Certified Nurserymen and a second for PCA's and Commercial growers.

(c) Future Budget Planning-Discussion

Board has asked the department heads to show what a 10% reduction in labor cost would look like in 2011-2012 budget.

(d) Bicycle Complaints/Issues

Ms. Hardy attended the STA meeting and STA has agreed to create sub committee with two AAC members, two members from Yolo County Farm Bureau and two members from Solano County Farm Bureau along with additional STA members. The two volunteers for this committee were Barbara Comfort and Bruce Brazelton.

(e) Delta Water Issues

No updates at this time.

(f) Williamson Act Update

The Governor vetoed Williamson Act Funding.

Click here for more information: http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/lca/Pages/index.aspx

(g) Solano County Fair Plan-Ongoing

The funding for Dixon May fair and Solano County fair have been budgeted for this year; there will be reduction in State funding next fiscal year.

Here is the link to the Solano County Fair http://solano360.org

(g) Pesticide Update

If you do any soil fumigations the regulations will be changing dramatically. The rule making process is just beginning and could require a field fumigation management plan.

Item 7 Identify and Clarify Future Agenda Topics and Timing of Discussion

The Future Agenda Topics and Timing of Discussion are as follows:

a. Delta Water Issues-Ongoing
b. EVGM Update- Jim Allan
c. Williamson Act Update- Ongoing
d. Solano County Branding- Ongoing
e. Solano County Fair Plan- Ongoing
f. Guideline on the Use of Prime Farmland- Report from Working Group
g. Future Budget Planning-Discussion
h. Bicycle Complaints/Solutions- Discussion
i. Rio Vista Bridge Studies (STA)-Presentation
j. Local Food Shed working group 2/9/2011
k. Delta education working group 2/9/2011
l. Renewable Energy working group 2/9/11

Item 8 Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

This is the opportunity to address the committee on a matter not listed on the agenda, but within the subject jurisdiction of the Committee.

(a) Public Comments

Ms. Burke attended the Eco Farm conference supported by scholarship from Solano Grown and found it very informative.

(b) Announcements

The committee members will each pay $6 to cover the cost of coffee and snacks.

(c) Correspondence

Item 9 Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., first floor conference room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield.

Item 10 Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.