

SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY MEETING (AAC)
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
February 13, 2013

The meeting of the Solano County Agriculture 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:

Jim Wallace, Sue Lippstreu, Craig Leathers, MH Seeger,
Bruce Brazelton, Jeff Dittmer, Moira Burke, Russ Lester

Others present:

Jim Allan	Agriculture Commissioner
Nedzlene Ferrario	Resource Management
Wendy Rash	USDA_NRCS
Morgan Doran	UCCE Director
Mike Yankovich	Solano Co Resources Management staff Senior Planner,

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Russ Lester at 3:10 PM.

Item 2 Introductions of Members and Guests

Item 3 Changes and Approval of the Agenda

Agenda approved as presented

Item 4 Review/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved as presented

Item 5 New Business

(a) Report on the Board of Supervisor Meeting –

Board Topics Related to Subject Matter of the AAC

Mike Yankovich - nothing new to report

(b) Dixon Ag Industrial Strategic Plan

Mike Yankovich - nothing new to report on the specifics of the Plan

Continued discussion of Land Use Evaluation

Wendy Rash provided information on Land evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA)

1. Use of a flow chart for method of evaluation
2. Yolo County has their own LESA Model
3. Farmland Conservation Impact Rating USDA form AD-1006

much comes from info from Ag Statistics and local mapping
been in place since early 1990's
option for Solano to create a committee if Board of Sups approved it.
Mike Yankovich - Solano has protection - initiative does not allow change of
designation of ag to another zone without a vote of the people.
Yolo does not have the protection that Solano has.

(c) Update Solar Ordinance

Nedzlene Ferrara presented working draft of Solar Energy facilities in the Exclusive
Agricultural Districts.
Staff has continued to work on concept to refine state guidelines
committee's continued interest to protect Ag. Board is reviewing now also.
Russ said change need to be made regarding the order in which permits are requested
and granted. Committee members will contact Ned if other changes suggested.

Gestamp Solar, which had their application in prior to new guidelines for solar
installation, is looking at a new site - not prime ag, not irrigable,
Travis as well as Solano County will have input.
Russ- the military is under mandate to be energy self sufficient.
Jim Allan- side note that large solar-thermal array is proposed in Mono County, high
desert uses parabolic reflective glass to heat water to steam to generate electricity

(d) Farmbudsman Project update

Applications being sent in - deadline 2/15/13
Steve Pierce will head selection process, choose top 5 from 1st round.
There has been a second round of applications, They will interview 5 more.

(e) Bay Area AQMD Open Burning Fees

Discussion of base rate increase.
Most farmers are in Yolo- Solano AQMD. There is a base fee and an acreage fee.
only for burning in the marsh area have to have a smoke management plan
Fire Dept has challenges when it gets "away" - burning peat
Fish and Game may be biggest user of marsh burns in the County.

(f) Committee Goal Setting for 2013

Same priorities as last year-
Working groups on Food Shed, Zoning-Planning, Energy, Bicycle
Will initiate new working group on Delta Water: see below for members

CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. General Plan Update/Dixon Ridge - no update

B. Exotic Pest Update - no update

C. Future Budget Planning

Funding for trapper is jeopardized. There will be 28% increase what Solano County will have to cover since feds are backing out their funding.
Federal funding will be minimal - although trappers will continue to be paid as federal employees. State had a 30% cost share – that is now gone, so county will bear the burden. Solano is fortunate to have an experienced trapper who acts judiciously and advises multiple methods of control

D. Delta Water Issues – no new information presented
ACC will begin a working group with these members -
Moira Burke, Al Medvitz, Russ Lester, Jim Wallace

E. Williamson Act - no update

F. Local Food Shed working group - no update
Slow Food Dinner with local food producers with North Bay Health March 7th

G. Renewable Energy Working Group - see above

H. Pesticide Update

Jim Allan: New fumigant labels due to residential problems in the past.
More onerous training ...based on the new federal EPA rule.
Only a few people do tree hole fumigants. No full on field application currently in the county. More set-back will be required. Strawberries are where there is a big impact especially in urban areas. Driscoll, UCD doing research on alternatives.

Rodenticide -
anti-coagulants will be more regulated
products must be sold in tamper resistant bait stations for urban use
farmer/pesticide user required to provide their own tamper resistant stations

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

a. Russ talk to Matt Tuggle about Bicycle Committee
b. Morgan Duran: Filling the Co-operative Extension Farm Advisor Pomology position has been approved. May be others that open up.
Discussion: Sales of almond trees and walnut trees increasing, many nurseries sold out next two years

c. March 21st UC Co-operative Extension Workshop: Cover crop in orchards

d. March 14th SID irrigation workshop

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 13th, 2013

Adjourned at 4: 55 pm