

**SOLANO COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON  
January 10, 2007**

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, Barbara Comfort, Jeff Dittmer, Alan Freese, Donald Johnson, Craig Leathers, Russell Lester, John Mangels, Betty Mason, Albert Medvitz, and Mary Helen Seeger.

**Others Present:**

Jearl Howard	Agricultural Commissioner
Carole Paterson	Director, UCCE
Kathy Gibson	County Administrative Office
Sabine Goeke-Shrode	Aide to Supervisor Spering
Phil Hogan	Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Matt Walsh	Resource Management
Steven Ingram	Deputy County Counsel
June Guidotti	

**Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m., a quorum was present.

**Item 2 Introductions of Members and Guests**

Members and Guests in attendance introduced themselves.

**Item 3 Changes and Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

**Item 4 Review/Approval of the Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2006.**

Mr. Lester stated that one comment under Item 5(c) was omitted. It was requested to add “survey stakes were placed in an orchard without any communication with the land owner, such activity is disruptive to the affected agricultural operation.” It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes of the December 13, 2006 meeting with the above noted change. The motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

**Item 5 New Business**

(a) Brown Act Training – Steven Ingram
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Mr. Ingram provided the AAC members present with the required annual Brown Act refresher training, reference manual and answered numerous questions about the application of the Act under various situations.

**(b) Report on Board of Supervisors Meetings – Board Topics Related to the Subject Matter of the AAC – Matt Walsh**

Mr. Walsh reported that Supervisors Spring and Silva were appointed to examine the General Plan Update process and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). They are scheduled to bring recommendations to the full Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding process changes and changes to the CAC.

**(c) Yolo County Land Evaluation and Site Assessment System – Phil Hogan**

Mr. Hogan described the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system that is used in Yolo County. He stated that LESA is one of the tools used by Yolo County to protect farmland. LESA is a tool to identify the most important agricultural lands in Yolo County. He described the scoring process; maximum 100 points – Land Evaluation (LE) Factors 50 points – Site Assessment (SA) Factors 50 points. Land evaluation factors include: Land Capability Classification, Storie Index Rating and Irrigated Farmland Score, Separation from Urban Conflict Score, and County Zoning Score.

Mr. Hogan stated that the LESA system can be a valuable land assessment tool but that there are some important factors that need to be considered. It must be a local initiative, it requires a receptive local government, the LESA committee must be broad based and numerous other factors must be considered. In Yolo County the LESA system is used as a means of determining the mitigation ratio for the conversion of important farmland to other uses.

**(d) Appoint Members to “Draft” Grading Ordinance Work Group – Jerry Howard/Nick Burton**

Mr. Howard reminded the AAC members that Mr. Medvitz and Mr. Lester volunteered to serve on the work group at the December meeting. Two additional members are needed to fill out the Work Group. Mr. Dittmer and Mr. Brazelton volunteered to serve.

Mr. Burton gave a brief review of the “Draft” ordinance. He indicated no additional changes had been made since the last AAC meeting.

The Work Group is to meet with staff and report back to the AAC at the February meeting. “Mr. Burton requested that comments be submitted to him by January 17, 2007.

**(e) Agricultural Disaster Notification Network – Jerry Howard**

Mr. Howard reported that his staff is developing a notification network to assist in assessing damage from weather related events. This network is being developed by obtaining email addresses from growers in conjunction with the pesticide permit issuance process. He indicated that most growers have been very cooperative in providing the contact information.

**Item 6 Continuing Business**

**(a) U.C. Davis Ag Futures Project Update – Carole Paterson**

Mrs. Paterson reported that the Phase I Report of the Focus Group Meetings and Summary of the Questionnaires has been finalized and will be provided to the Board of Supervisors on Friday. She further reported that Phase II, the in depth review of Solano County Agriculture is underway.

**(b) AFT Suisun Valley Study Update – Jerry Howard**

Mr. Howard reported that the “Draft AFT Report” is expected this month for review and comment by the Project Oversight Committee. He said the final report is due on March 1, 2007.

**(c) SAREP Project Report – Carole Paterson**

Mrs. Paterson reported that a series of four workshops are scheduled over the next several weeks. These workshops will include:

1. Specialty & Directly Marketed Crops on January 27, 2007.
2. Energy Crops for Solano County on February 13, 2007.
3. Promoting Local Agriculture on February 27, 2007.
4. Agricultural Entrepreneurship on March 5, 2007.

Mrs. Paterson encouraged members of the AAC to participate in the upcoming workshops which are intended to compliment the U.C. Ag Futures Study.

**(d) General Plan Update – Mike Yankovich**

There was no update. There was a comment offered that part of the problem with the Citizen’s Advisory Committee is that it is being over managed and members are not allowed to participate.

**(e) Dixon Downs (Racetrack) Project Status – Jerry Howard**

Mr. Howard reported that the Dixon City Council voted to let the matter be decided by the people in a Special Election that is scheduled for April.

It was noted that the City of Davis has filed suit on the basis that the EIR was inadequate. More specifically, it did not adequately consider impacts on the City of Davis. It was also noted that the EIR did not adequately address impacts on agriculture with respect to traffic at Pedrick Rd. It was also stated that the EIR did not adequately address traffic impacts on Hwy 12 and 113 from the Central Valley.

It was moved and seconded to communicate the AAC’s concerns to the Board of Supervisors and urge them to join the opposition based on negative impacts to agricultural, security, traffic, potential vandalism, and animal waste disposal issues, by

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joining in lawsuits on EIR with the concurrence of County Counsel. The Motion carried on a vote of 8 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

**(f) Agricultural Pesticide/Hazardous Material Waste Disposal Day Update – Jerry Howard**

Mr. Howard stated that workload issues in his department prevented any progress on this matter, the matter will be re-scheduled for the February meeting.

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

- a. Items from Board of Supervisors on Subject Matter of the AAC – Ongoing
- b. Dixon Downs (Racetrack) Project Status – Ongoing
- c. Trails – Update on Regional Project Status – Ongoing
- d. Horse Facilities/Farming Operations Update – February
- e. Agricultural Pesticide/Hazardous Materials Waste Disposal Day – Ongoing
- f. Large Animal Carcass Catastrophe/Carcass Disposal Plan – Fall/Winter
- g. Agricultural Center
- h. Antiquated Maps

**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**

June Guidotti expressed concern about a Grading Permit that had recently been issued to a neighboring land owner and the impact it may have on her land.

**(b) Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**(c) Correspondence**

There were no correspondences.

**Item 9 Next Meeting Date**

February 14, 2007 at 3:00 p.m., first floor conference room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield.

**Item 10 Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.