

**SOLANO COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON  
December 13, 2006**

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, Donald Johnson, Craig Leathers, Russell Lester, Susan Lippstreu, John Mangels, Albert Medvitz, and Mary Helen Seeger.

**Others Present:**

Jearl Howard	Agricultural Commissioner
Carole Paterson	Director, UCCE
Birgitta Corsello	Director, Resource Management
Kathy Gibson	County Administrative Office
Sabine Goeke-Shrode	Assistant Board of Supervisor, District 3
Al Sokolow	U.C. Davis Ag Issues Center
Nick Burton	Resource Management
Paul Wiese	Resource Management
Mike Yankovich	Resource Management
Mario Monatorio	UCCE
Narcisa Untal	Resource Management
June Guidotti	
Joy Warren	
Ceil Scandone	ABAG

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 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 change the order of the agenda by moving Item 6(a) of Continuing Business to the top of the agenda to accommodate Mr. Sokolow's schedule. The motion was carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

Note: The minutes are in the order items appeared on the agenda.

**Item 4 Review/Approval of the Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2006.**

It was moved and seconded to approve the meeting minutes of November 8, 2006 as presented. The motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

**Item 5 New Business**

**(a) Report on Board of Supervisors Meetings – Topics Related to the Subject Matter of the AAC – Birgitta Corsello**

Ms. Corsello clarified a question that was raised regarding a recent discussion by the Board of Supervisors involving a study about Collinsville. She clarified that discussion this was in regards to an item in the County's Federal Legislative Platform and that there is no study underway at this time.

**(b) –Green Business Program – Ceil Scandone, ABAG**

Ms. Scandone provided the AAC on overview of the Green Business Program in a PowerPoint presentation. The Green Business Program is a voluntary program that is designed to assist small businesses in reducing and managing the hazardous waste they generate. The program currently exists in 7 of 9 Bay area counties and has enrolled 808 businesses since 1996. The Green Business Program is a collaborative multi-agency partnership.

Ms. Scandone noted that Solano County does not currently participate in the program. She also noted that in Napa and Sonoma counties the focus of the program is primarily on wineries. She also stated that counties outside of the Bay Area; Sacramento and Santa Barbara are not getting involved.

Ms. Scandone stated that the program priorities include: pollution prevention, recycling and disposal, energy conservation and water conservation. She stated that when a business becomes certified they get a certificate, a window sticker and are listed on the Green Business website. She said certification/recertification is on a three year cycle. Benefits to participating businesses include: better relations with government agencies, compliance assistance, incentives and rebates, cost savings, team building, healthier workplace, positive recognition and a competitive edge.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Scandone solicited questions from the AAC.

Q. What is the definition of a small business?

A. Businesses ranging from small auto repair shops to large hotels but excluding large factories. She stated that they have not worked with agriculture other than wineries and landscape businesses. They have not developed any checklists for agriculture to date.

Q. Does the program have a Safe Harbor provision?

A. They communicate with the appropriate regulatory agency (ies), if a business is in compliance; they are accepted into the program. If they are not in compliance, the business is encouraged to become compliant and reapply for certification.

Ms. Corsello stated that the Board of Supervisors is interested in establishing the Green Business Program in Solano County and asked what the AAC if they felt it would be beneficial.

It was moved and seconded to recommend that the Board of Supervisors take the necessary steps to establish the Green Business Program in Solano County. The motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

**(c) County Bridge Replacement Program – Paul Wiese**

Mr. Wiese opened his remarks by stating that Solano County has 95 bridges for which it is responsible. He also stated that the state inspects all bridges whether county owned or state owned. He said they use a very complicated formula to arrive at a sufficiency rating. A rating of 100 is a brand new bridge. If the sufficiency rating is 50 or below Cal Trans will provide financial assistance to repair or replace the bridge at about 90% of the cost. If a bridge that is deemed insufficient is not repaired in a timely manner, the state can place limits on traffic over the bridge.

Mr. Wiese said that county has had a very active bridge replacement program, noting that 18-20 bridges have been replaced in the last 20 years. He indicated that the process to get to the point of replacing a bridge can take up to 10 years. He also noted that in recent years, nominations for bridge replacements have been limited to one per year.

Mr. Wiese reported that over the next two years, the Cordelia Creek Bridge and Abernathy Creek Bridge will be replaced. In 2009, the Suisun Valley Bridge will be replaced. He further stated they anticipate rehabilitation work on the Stevenson Bridge near Winters to begin in 2011.

The following comments were offered with regard to the Stevenson Bridge:

- Notice should go to resident in a 4 to 5 mile radius of the bridge as it is their primary means of crossing Putah Creek.
- 20 feet is not wide enough for farm equipment to cross without obstructing other traffic.
- 20 feet is not wide enough for some modern farm equipment to cross the bridge under any circumstances.
- Some residents would like to see the old bridge saved and used as a pedestrian crossing.
- 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 noted by Mr. Wiese that Cal Trans will probably require the destruction of the old bridge as a condition of financing the new bridge.

The question was raised, because of the age of the Stevenson Bridge and its unique design, being one of only two like it left in California, if it could be declared a historical site. Mr. Wiese indicated that he would need to research that possibility.

June Guidotti asked if there are any plans to replace the Killdare Bridge on highway 12? Mr. Wiese responded that the state highways are under the jurisdiction of Cal Trans and that he had no information on plans to replace that particular bridge. He did say that the bridge on Grizzley Island Rd. is scheduled to be replaced in 2009.

**(d) "Draft" Grading Ordinance Revisions – Nick Burton**

Mr. Burton explained to the members of the AAC that the Grading Ordinance and the Erosion Ordinance are being combined into a single document. He stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to address storm water runoff issues. Mr. Burton also noted that the AAC was the first group that has seen the "Draft" ordinance to date. He encouraged the AAC members to submit comments and questions to him.

Mr. Burton was asked if the ordinance applied to agricultural land? He responded that it did and cited the conversion of range land to crop production as an example of when it would affect agriculture. He noted that the exemptions for agriculture have not changed. Discussion ensued regarding the exemptions for agriculture including exemption for trenching for the installation of irrigation systems etc.

It was suggested that the AAC establish a Work Group to work with Resource Management and to develop a recommendation for the full committee to consider regarding the "Draft" Grading Ordinance.

Albert Medvitz and Russell Lester indicated an interest in serving on the Work Group. It was decided to complete assignments to the Work Group at the next meeting.

**(e) Review/Approval 2007 Meeting Schedule – Jerry Howard**

Mr. Howard presented a "Draft" 2007 meeting schedule for consideration by the AAC. The "draft" meeting schedule indicated the AAC would meet on the second Wednesday in the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November and December 2007.

After discussion, it was moved and seconded to approve the following schedule for 2007:

Wednesday, January 10, 2007  
Wednesday, February 14, 2007  
Wednesday, March 14, 2007  
Wednesday, April 11, 2007  
Wednesday, May 9, 2007  
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

AAC Meeting December 13, 2006

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Note: No meeting in August or September due to harvest activities.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

**(f) Selection of AAC Chair and Vice Chair for 2007 – Jerry Howard**

Mr. Howard advised the AAC that the current chair and vice chair have served in those capacities for the last year and action should be take to select a chair and vice chair for 2007.

It was moved and seconded to have the current chair and vice chair continue in that capacity for 2007. Both the chair and vice chair were amenable. The motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

AAC Officers for 2007:  
Bruce Brazelton, Chair  
John Mangels, Vice Chair

**Item 6 Continuing Business**

**(a) Ag Futures Project Update – Al Sokolow**

Mr. Sokolow reminded the AAC members that this is a 4 phase project consisting of : a Grower Survey, a Detailed Profile of Solano County Agriculture, a Comparison to other Counties (focusing on regulations and promotion of agriculture) and a final report including recommendations.

Mr. Sokolow discussed the “Draft” Focus Group Report and Grower Questionnaire Summary. He noted that County Regulation was discussed more than any other topic in the Focus Group meetings, but it was not the main area of concern in the questionnaires. He said this is an area that needs more investigation.

Mr. Sokolow discussed the outline of the profile of Solano County Agriculture. He also discussed the series of Workshops that are being scheduled for late January, February and early March. He stated that Workshops will focus on : Specialty Crops, Energy Crops, Ag. Promotion and Regulations, and Ag Entrepreneurs and Farm Enterprise Centers.

**(b) General Plan Update – Birgitta Corsello**

Ms. Corsello reported that the Citizen’s Advisory Committee has 5 vacancies. She noted she will be seeking direction from the Board of Supervisors in January to determine what to do about the dwindling committee membership.

**(c) Dixon Downs (Racetrack) Project Status – Birgitta Corsello**

Ms. Corsello stated that the project has been approved by the Dixon City Council. It has been reported that enough signatures have gathered to put the issue to a vote of the people.

**(d) Agricultural Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors – Jerry Howard**

Mr. Howard reported that the AAC Annual Report was presented to and accepted by the Board without specific comment. He did note, however, that the Board of Supervisors expressed concern about the number and frequency of absences by members of appointed boards, commissions and committees in general.

He also noted that the AAC Bylaws will need to be reviewed and updated in the near future.

**(e) AAC Training – Ethics/Brown Act – Jerry Howard**

Mr. Howard reminded the committee that Ethics Training was a new legislative mandate. He further advised the AAC members that anyone who does not complete the training by December 31, 2006 will be ineligible to continue serving on the committee. He advised those members who had not attended an Ethics Training session in person could take it online at no cost.

Mr. Howard stated that he had tentatively scheduled Steve Ingram, Deputy County Counsel to provide Brown Act Training refresher training from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in conjunction with the January 10, 2007 AAC Meeting. A majority of the members in attendance indicated they would attend the training if offered.

**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 Efforts
- d. Horse Facilities/Farming Operations Update – February
- e. Agricultural Pesticide/Hazardous Waste Disposal Day – Ongoing
- f. Large Animal Carcass Catastrophe/Carcass Disposal Plan – Winter/Spring
- g. Agricultural Disaster Notification Network
- h. Agricultural Center
- i. Antiquated Maps – Ongoing

**Item 8 Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence**

**(a) Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

(b) Announcements

There were no announcements.

(c) Correspondence

There were no correspondences.

**Item 9 Next Meeting Date**

January 10, 2007 at 2:00 p.m., first floor conference room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield.

**Item 10 Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.