

**SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
FINAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
December 8, 2010**

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, Jeff Dittmer, Craig Leathers, Russ Lester, Sue Lippstreu, Al Medvitz, Mary Helen Seeger, James Wallace

Others Present:

Mike Yankovich	Resource Management
Carole Paterson	UC Cooperative Extension
Fred Zaragoza	Aide to Supervisor Reagan
Sabine Goerke-Shrode	Aide to Supervisor Spring

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Russ Lester at 2:40 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 November 10, 2010

The minutes for November 10, 2010 were approved.

Item 5 New Business

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

The Board considered Senate bill SB863 which would have reduced the years of Williamson Act Contracts from 10 to 9 years. Considering the economic times the California Farm Bureau supported the bill. The Board elected to keep funding at the current level. Depending on the State budget the county could receive \$180,000 in subvention funds and County will provide the remainder of the monies necessary to fulfill the contracts at current level. The Board also instructed Resource Management to review current Williamson Act contracts and check for compliance issues.

The Board approved recent budget cuts in several departments.

The Board will consider acceptance of the Suisun Valley Report on January 25th regarding the rezoning to 20 acre parcels.

(b) Bicycle Complaints/Solutions- Jim Allan

The calendared appointment was rescheduled to January 13, 2011. There are several bicycle events which conflict with agriculture production. Mr. Allan is attempting to work with bicycle community to find solutions to existing conflicts.

(d) Goal Setting for 2011/Election of Officers

Ms. Paterson directed the group in a brainstorm exercise to determine issues of concern for 2011. Some of the issues to add to the existing list were as follows:

- Bring attention to government and public regarding the Delta Plan and negative effects to Agriculture in Delta
- Public education, Promotion and Facilitation of food to low income public
- Community garden promotion and development including gardens in schools within the county, develop methods to get sustainable food to public and food banks, Use Solano Brand/Regional Ag as a spring board to deal with issues/problem Ag is facing.
- Facilitate Ag Tour of the Delta
- Recommend County be pro active in renewable energy sources and use (farm energy production)

Election of Officers were conducted by committee unanimously

- Russ Lester was nominated and accepted position as Chair
- Moira Burke was nominated and accepted position as Vice-Chair

Item 6 Continuing Business

(a) General Plan Update/Agricultural Regions Study

No updates at this time

(b) EGVM/LBAM Update-Jim Allan

No comments at this time

(c) Future Budget Planning-Discussion

No additional comments at this time.

(d) Delta Water Issues

BDCP is funded by water districts and a major contributor is Westland Water District who has withdrawn funding. Garamendi has requested an investigation of the bond issues, where water rights may have been used as collateral.

(e) Williamson Act Update

See item 5 (a) for updated information

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

(f) Solano County Fair Plan-Ongoing

There are no updates at this time. Here is the link to the Solano County Fair <http://solano360.org>

(g) Pesticide Update/ CE Requirements

To receive Continuing Education credit for AAC member you were required to attend 8 meeting for 1.5 CE hours.

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

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

Slow Food Solano has grant monies available for schools to start a garden. For more information contact Slow Food Solano. Here is the link for application with deadline of January 15, 2011 <http://www.slowfoodsolano.org/> .

Four Winds Growers may also have deciduous fruit trees available, please call for more information.

Day of Artisan Butchery raised \$2,400 for grants. The following organizations received grant monies

- Farmers Veterans Coalition
- City Slicker Farm
- Butchers Guild
- Shooting Star CSA

(b) Announcements

(c) Correspondence

Item 9 Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, January 12, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., first floor conference room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield.

Item 10 Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.